

Mohannadi elected president of Arab Table Tennis Union

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QATAR Table Tennis Association (QTTA) President Khalil bin Ahmed al Mohannadi was on Saturday elected the president of the Arab Table Tennis Union (ATTU) in Tunisia.

Mohannadi, who is also ITTF deputy president and the presidential candidate for ITTF's elections which will be held in May, will be heading the Arab Table Tennis Union for the 2017-2020 tenure.

He replaces Mohammad Husseini, who decided not to run for another cycle. Mohannadi's election was received with acclaim by the members of the committee at the elections that took place during the Annual General Meeting.

Mohannadi's election gives him another opportunity to work for the development of the game as he prepares for the electoral battle for presidency of the International Table Tennis Federation, which will be held in Germany in May.

"I want to transform the ATTU for a generation of young people by laying the foundations of a true system, in which they can work in the future. We promise to build a system that will constitute a sophisticated ideology that will contribute towards the progress of the game of table tennis," said Mohannadi.

The ATTU, in its new council of seven members, also elected Alaa Meshraf from Egypt for the post of vice-president.

The other five members that were elected are: Wael Nouredine from Lebanon, Issam Alfaquir from Yemen, Alhaji Monquid from Morocco, Kamal Zitouni from Algeria and Radwan Mohammed Sharif from Palestine.

Mohannadi stressed that this new system welcomes anyone who wants to contribute to the development of Arab table tennis.

"This is the beginning of a new era for the union and we will all work as a team and spare no effort through our



ATTU President Khalil bin Ahmed al Mohannadi (fourth left, seated) with other officials during the AGM congress in Tunisia on Saturday.

new programmes and plans," he added.

The meeting was held in the presence of Assistant Secretary-General of the Union of Arab National Olympic Committees Saad bin Saleh al Sufiyan, and a majority of other members of the 12 Arab

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countries that have the right to vote.

Sufiyan acknowledged the enthusiasm shown by all the countries and applauded the election of Mohannadi as president.

He said Mohannadi's leadership will help in unifying the Arab countries and is a beginning of a new era for Arab table tennis.

Shapoorji Pallonji trounce BOTC 4-1 in Workers Cup group stage



Action during the Workers Cup match at the Qatar Sports Club in Doha on Friday.

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THE first game of the week-end in the Workers Cup saw Shapoorji Pallonji registering a 4-1 win against BOTC in Group A. BOTC opened the scoring in the 7th minute but after that it was all about Shapoorji Pallonji, who came from behind to eventually win 4-1.

In the other group match, Nakheel staged off a determined Galfar side with a thrilling 3-1 win. Mohammed opened the scoring in the 16th minute with a well taken penalty.

Nakheel doubled their lead and took a decisive grip of the tie with a second goal six minutes later by Faisal, who scored with a towering header from a corner kick. Galfar pulled a goal back one back in the 28th minute. However, Kanote ensured three points for Nakheel minutes later.

GROUP B

Delta grabbed a comprehensive 4-1 win against Aktor S.A. in Group B action.

Delta raced into a three-goal lead before Aktor pulled a goal back. Delta attacker Arjun struck late to give his side a 4-1 win.

Three second-half goals from ALYSJ ensured a comfortable win over G5 Security. Albert Turkson steered home the opening goal with a delicate touch in the 34th minute. Then Ibrahim Yakubu opened up the defence with a dink inside to Yaw who turned and shot home, with the G5 goalkeeper flat footed. Vincent netted the third goal to rubberstamp the win for ALYSJ.

GROUP C

Taleb Group lived up to their "defending champions" credentials by completing a clinical route of Boom Construction.

Taleb's spectacular strikers were all on target as they crushed Boom Construction 7-0. A Thrilling 2-2 draw saw TRAGS snatch a draw with Arab Coast. Raymond Surfo put Arab coast into the lead. TRAGS bounced back and duly equalised before Arab Coast retook the lead. In the end, TRAGS left it late to register an important draw.

GROUP D

Mowasalat scored three goals in eight minutes to blow the inexperienced Cofely side and set up an exciting high

scoring game ending at 6-1. Mowasalat's striker Abdul Ghane was the star of the show, grabbing an impressive hat-trick for his team.

Al Asmakh registered a Workers Cup record 20-0 victory over Al Balagh. Al Asmakh striker Abubakr Faisal grabbed ten goals as his side proved too strong for Al Balagh.

GROUP E

2014 Champions Tanzifco suffered a humiliating 11-0 loss this week at the hands of Larsen & Toubro. L&T's attacker Mohammed Amin scored four goals to add to his team's spectacular performance.

Doha Pest edged out QDVC with a slender 1-0 win. A 43rd minute strike by Williams Gaseba did the damage, for his side, who defeated a much improved QDVC team.

GROUP F

Medgulf Construction and Al Balagh L&T JV split six goals between them in an entertaining workers cup tie. This match also saw 3 goals coming off penalties in a highly entertaining game. The 6-goal thriller ended in favour of Al Balagh 4-2.

Desert Line ran opponents Dico-Tech ragged as they ended

their second game of the tournament with a thumping 8-0 win. Six of their goals came in a devastating first-half display as Dico-Tech crumbled.

GROUP G

In the battle for supremacy of Group G, Bhakta Bhandari salvaged a deserved point for Outlook Trading, scoring in the 56th minute to level the game at 1-1 against Dulscio Qatar.

AALCO notched an impressive 5-0 win over NAAS Group, consigning NAAAS to their second defeat of the competition. AALCO dominated proceedings from the very start, and controlled the game throughout.

GROUP H

Kevin Otieno stole the show grabbing a hat-trick as Gulf Contracting company sealed a comfortable 7-0 victory over Carillion. GCC now lead the group with 6 points ahead of their match against G4S next week.

G4S picked up a slender 1-0 win over AGME in a keenly fought encounter. Raju Chilwal scored a controversial winner for G4S, but it was enough for his side who gave AGME to their second defeat of the competition.

Qatar to face Japan in AFC Beach soccer tourney today

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QATAR face two-time champions Japan in their opening match of AFC Beach Soccer Championship in Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia on Monday.

Qatar has made two appearances at the continental competition - the 2013 and 2015 editions that they hosted. They will, however, be looking to improve on their previous displays, having finished bottom of their group in both of their previous campaigns.

Portuguese coach Carlos Lisboa said during a press conference: "We know full well our performances in the past and we are here to make sure we improve our games to get the desired result. The teams in the group are very formidable but we will give our best to go beyond the Group Stage this time and enter the semi-finals."

Two-time champions Japan aim to play with the mentality of challengers, not former champions, in their quest to win a third title. Perennial contenders Japan have two titles - in 2009 and 2011 - to their name and have finished as runners-up five times - in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2013 and 2015.

However, Brazilian head coach Mendes Marcelo has warned his players not to rest on their laurels and to treat their Group C rivals as potential champions.

"We have arrived early in Kuala Terengganu and prepared well for the competition," said Marcelo during the group's pre-match media conference. "Although we are two-time champions, we have respect for all the teams as many have got new strong

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players, and the UAE are also one of the strongest sides and so we can't predict what will happen in our games.

"We can't rely on any one player although they have helped us achieved a lot in our past games. To us, we want to be strong as a team and not depend on any particular player. We are here as challengers also and try our best to win the tournament."

The United Arab Emirates are one of only two countries - along with Japan - to have won the competition twice. As

hosts, the Emiratis won the title in 2007 and 2008 editions and also finished third at Qatar 2013. Former national player and now head coach Mohamed Abas feels his side are ready for their toughest competition yet at Malaysia 2017.

"This is my first time coaching the UAE national team after being a national player before this," he said. "We have been preparing for this competition for about three months and we have had friendlies against Hungary, Oman and Thailand, so I think we're ready."

"Japan won this competition two times, like us, but it doesn't mean we can relax and take Iraq and Qatar lightly. We'll play every game like it's our last."

Iraq has appeared at three previous AFC Beach Soccer Championships and is again facing a familiar foe in the shape of the UAE, who they played in the Group Stage of the last edition.

"This is my first year with the team and were gelling together really quick to represent our country," said coach Rashid Hamad. "I expect our opponents in the group to be very tough and I hope my players will adapt well and bring our first win in Monday's game against the UAE."



Qatar coach Carlos Lisboa (right) with other teams' coaches during a press conference in Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia, on Sunday.

El Jaish's Rashidov among the glittering stars of QSL Round 23 matches

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THE Round 23 matches of the QSL season saw five attackers come up with the goods in front of goal, assisting their sides with all important wins ahead of a three-week break in QSL action.

El Jaish attacker Sardor Rashidov has been ever present in this column over the course of the season, and the Uzbekistan international again delivered a decisive performance in his sides 2-1 win over strugglers Muaiter on Thursday.

With Jaish looking for inspiration, Rashidov struck a

drilled shot from distance to level the scores at 1-1.

It was the former FC Bunyodkor attacker's 13th goal of the season, which sees him level as the clubs leading scorer with Romarinho.

Rashidov will be hoping his goal scoring form can continue when Jaish take on rivals Lekhwiya in what could be a season defining match for both sides.

Another Uzbekistan based striker made his presence felt for his side as Al Saliya showed plenty of fighting spirit to shock Al Gharafa 3-2. January's signing Temurkhuja Abdulkholiqov



Sardor Rashidov (left) moves past an opponent during a QSL match in Doha recently.

Rashidov will be hoping his form can continue when Jaish take on rivals Lekhwiya in what could be a season defining match

grabbed a brace in the game including a 94th minute winner to relieve any relegation woes Saliya may have had.

Abdulkholiqov has scored four goals for his side since arriving at the start of the year, his contributions have been crucial to Saliya's pull away from the drop zone. Al Ahli striker Ali Feydoon all but secured the

three points for his side on Friday with a stunning strike on the 74th minute as the Brigadiers defeated Al Shahania 3-2.

The striker, who was picked up on loan from Al Shamal in January has now scored five goals for his new side who are now in seventh place in the QSL standings.

Al Rayyan's talismanic captain Rodrigo Tabata delivered again as his side brushed aside bottom of the table Al Wakrah 4-0 on Saturday evening.

Rayyan's number ten had a helping hand in all four goals, scoring a hat-trick and assisting Sergio Garcia during the match.

The win means that Rayyan are now back in third place in the QSL standings.

Lekhwiya striker Yusef El Arabi scored a brace as the Red Knights regained top spot in the QSL standings with a comprehensive 3-0 win over Al Kharaitiyat. El Arabi has now scored twenty four goals in seventeen QSL matches, and could be in line to break the record of the most goals scored during a league campaign.

El Arabi will be looking to get back to goal-scoring ways when Lekhwiya's campaign resumes against El Jaish in three weeks' time.