

tuesday — (all times are kuwait local)

12:45 tennis bein sports 9hd
 13:00 seoul vs kedah/soccer bein sports 1hd
 13:00 tokyo vs ceres/soccer bein sports 2hd
 13:00 antlers vs victory/soccer bein sports 3hd
 17:30 al rayyan vs esteghlal/soccer bein sports 1hd
 17:40 al ain vs bunyodkor/soccer bein sports 3hd
 20:30 al ahli vs istiklol/soccer bein sports 1hd
 20:45 futsal bein sports 7hd

Sports

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Bryant, basketball icon dies in crash



Firefighters and sheriffs work the scene of a helicopter crash that killed former NBA basketball player Kobe Bryant on Jan 26 in Calabasas, Calif. Bryant, his 13-year-old daughter and several others were killed in the helicopter crash on a steep hillside in dense morning fog in Southern California on Sunday. (Inset) A tribute to Kobe Bryant was shown on the screen before the start of an NBA basketball game between the Orlando Magic and the Los Angeles Clippers in Orlando, Fla. (AP)

HH the Amir condolences US Pres. on helicopter crash victims

LOS ANGELES, Jan 27, (Agencies): Kobe Bryant, the 18-time NBA All-Star who won five championships and became one of the greatest basketball players of his generation during a 20-year career with the Los Angeles Lakers, died in a helicopter crash Sunday. He was 41.

Bryant died in the foggy hills above Calabasas, California, about 30 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press. A different person familiar with the case confirmed Bryant's 13-year-old daughter Gianna also was killed. Authorities said nine people were on the helicopter and that all were presumed dead. No names were released.

Both of the AP's unnamed sources spoke on condition of anonymity because few details of the crash had been released publicly. The crash happened around 10 a.m.

Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Allen Kenitzer said the helicopter was a Sikorsky S-76, and it was not known what caused the crash.

Bryant lived south of Los Angeles in coastal Orange County for much of his adult life, and he often used helicopters to save time and avoid Southern California's notorious traffic. He often traveled to practices and games by helicopter before his playing career ended in 2016, and he kept up the practice after retirement as he attended to his business ventures. The crash occurred about 20 miles from Mamba Sports Academy, Bryant's basketball training complex in Thousand Oaks, California.

Bryant, who had four daughters with his wife, Vanessa, dedicated himself to boosting women's sports in recent years, coaching and mentoring basketball players. Gianna, better known as Gigi, was a talented basketball player.

Bryant retired nearly four years ago as the third-leading scorer in NBA history, finishing two decades with the Lakers as a prolific shooter with a sublime all-around game and a relentless competitive ethic. He held that spot in the league scoring ranks until Saturday night, when the Lakers' LeBron James passed him during a game in Philadelphia, Bryant's hometown.

"Continuing to move the game forward (at) King James," Bryant wrote in his last tweet. "Much respect my brother."

On Saturday night, James said he was "happy just to be in any conversation with Kobe Bean Bryant, one of the all-time greatest basketball players to ever play. One of the all-time greatest Lakers."

News of Bryant's death inspired an outpouring of grief around the sports world and beyond, but it was felt particularly painfully in Los Angeles, where Bryant was unquestionably the most popular athlete and one of the city's most beloved public figures.

The Lakers' next game isn't until Tuesday night against the crosstown rival Clippers, but hundreds of fans — many in Bryant jerseys and Lakers gear — spontaneously gathered at Staples Center and in the surrounding LA Live entertainment complex on Sunday, weeping and staring at video boards with Bryant's image before the Grammy awards ceremony.

Lakers great Magic Johnson told KCBS-TV, there was nobody who took more pride in putting on that Laker uniform than Kobe. Nobody. He was just special. We will miss him and we'll remember him for his greatness, but let's not forget how he impacted the world, too."

The NBA kept its games on as scheduled when the news broke, but the San Antonio Spurs and Toronto Raptors both took voluntary 24-second shot clock violations at the start of their game in honor of Bryant, who wore No. 24 for the second half of his career. Bryant opened a production company and entered the entertainment field in retirement. He won an Academy Award in 2018 for his contributions to "Dear Basketball," an animated short about his relationship to the game. He also produced content for ESPN.

In 2003, Bryant was charged with attacking a 19-year-old employee at a Colorado resort. The charge was eventually dropped. The woman later filed a civil suit against Bryant that was settled out of court. Bryant's adulation remained strong in Los Angeles even during the assault allegations.

Bryant had one of the greatest careers

in recent NBA history and became one of the game's most popular players as the face of the 16-time NBA champion Lakers franchise. He was the league MVP in 2008 and a two-time NBA scoring champion. He earned 12 selections to the NBA's All-Defensive teams.

He teamed with Shaquille O'Neal in a combustible partnership to lead the Lakers to NBA titles in 2000, 2001 and 2002. He later teamed with Pau Gasol to win two more titles in 2009 and 2010.

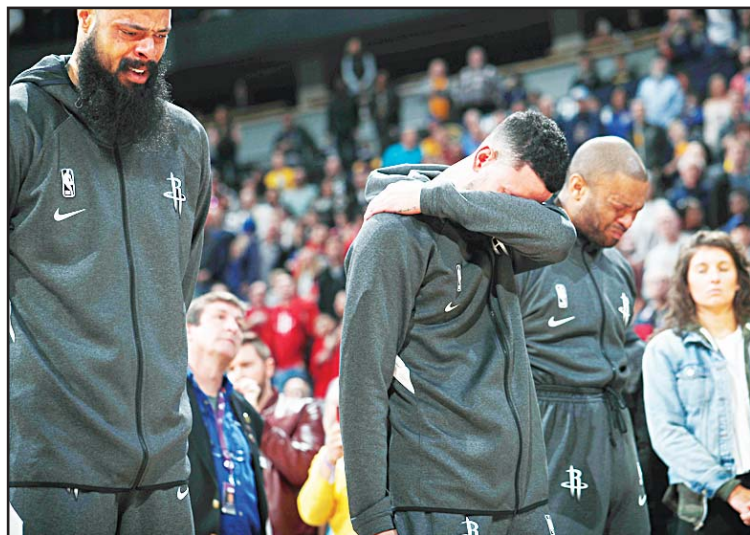
"There's no words to express the pain I'm going through with this tragedy of losing my niece Gigi & my brother (at) Kobe Bryant," O'Neal wrote on Twitter. "I'm sick right now."

A two-time Olympic gold medalist with the dominant US team, Bryant retired in 2016 after scoring 60 points in his final NBA game. In December 2017, the Lakers hung banners retiring his No. 8 and No. 24 jerseys in the Staples Center rafters in an unprecedented double honor.

Meanwhile His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences to US President Donald Trump over the helicopter crash in California which killed all people on board.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent cables to President Trump, extending their condolences for him and families of the deceased.

Kuwait National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim on Monday sent two cables of condolences to US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, expressing sincere condolences over the victims of the helicopter crash in California that killed all passengers including Bryant.



From left to right: Houston Rockets center Tyson Chandler, guard Austin Rivers and forward P.J. Tucker react during a tribute to Kobe Bryant before an NBA basketball game against the Denver Nuggets on Jan 26 in Denver. Bryant died in a California helicopter crash Sunday. (AP)

Thiem, Kontaveit reach Aussie Open quarters for 1st time

Steady Nadal edges animated Kyrgios

MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan 27, (AP) Rafael Nadal left the muttering and the preening, the underarm serving and the 'tweening, to his younger, flashier opponent, Nick Kyrgios.

Surely, Nadal was content to collect the win in the latest installment of their rivalry.

The No. 1-ranked Nadal kept his thoughts to himself and limited his shot-making to the more traditional variety in an entertaining 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (6), 7-6 (4) victory over home-crowd favorite Kyrgios on Monday to reach the Australian Open quarter-finals and get closer to a record-tying 20th Grand Slam title.

These two guys don't like each other. But Nadal had nothing but nice things to say after improving his head-to-head record to 5-3 against Kyrgios.

While Kyrgios was up to some of his usual trick shots and antics, what he never did was waver in his effort, something folks often accuse him of.

It certainly meant a lot to Kyrgios, who said: "I'm shattered to have lost tonight. These are the matches that I want to win the most."

Here's how the elevated stakes and tension affected both men: At 5-all in the pivotal third-set tiebreaker, Kyrgios double-faulted. That offered up a gift-wrapped set point. But Nadal failed to take advantage because he double-faulted right back.

Still, two points later, the 23rd-seeded Kyrgios put a forehand into the net, and the set was Nadal's. Not long after, Kyrgios double-faulted again to get broken at love.

That put Nadal ahead 2-1 in the fourth, seemingly in charge.

Sure, the cool, breezy conditions played to Nadal's advantage and dulled Kyrgios' power-based style. But there also was this: Nadal finished with more than twice as many winners as unforced errors, 64-27.

Kyrgios delivered 25 aces and some memorable moments — including walking out on court and warming up for the match in a No. 8 Los Angeles Lakers jersey to honor Kobe Bryant, the five-time NBA champion and 18-time All-Star who died in a helicopter crash Sunday at age 41.

Kyrgios switched to a No. 24 Bryant shirt for his post-match news conference and described himself as emotional at the news.

A video tribute to Bryant was played on the Rod Laver Arena scoreboards before Monday's match.

On Wednesday, the 33-year-old Nadal's 41st career Grand Slam quarter-final will be against No. 5 Dominic Thiem in a rematch of the past two French Open finals, both won by Na-



Spain's Rafael Nadal makes a forehand return to Australia's Nick Kyrgios during their fourth round singles match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Jan 27. (AP)

dal. Kyrgios came into this one following a five-set win that lasted nearly 4½ hours, sapping energy and emotion, and it appeared to hurt him in the early going.

And then, 63 minutes in, Kyrgios earned his first break opportunity and used it for a 3-1 lead with a squash forehand passing shot that Nadal let float by. The ball landed on the back of the baseline and Kyrgios marked the occasion with a leap and a fist in the air. Soon enough, it was a set apiece, and Kyrgios was strutting to the sideline with a towel dangling from his teeth.

Truthfully, Kyrgios should be "Mic'd Up" every time he plays, and his patter was strong, whether he was complimenting Nadal with "Too good!" or admonishing his entourage to "Say something!" or sarcastically criticizing himself by shouting "Well done!" after a bad backhand or smacking himself in the head with his racket.

Later he received a warning for destroying a racket by spiking it after flubbing a shot in the third-set tiebreaker. The way the fourth set ended probably angered Kyrgios, too, but he quickly packed up his things and left.

Comparing this loss with his last one to Nadal, Kyrgios said: "I felt a lot closer this time."

As the fourth-set tiebreaker ended, Stan Wawrinka tapped his right temple with his index finger, his signature celebration. He probably figured he had his Australian Open opponent right where he wanted him.

Wawrinka came back to beat US

Open runner-up Daniil Medvedev 6-2, 2-6, 4-6, 7-6 (2), 6-2 Monday to reach the quarter-finals at Melbourne Park, where he won the 2014 championship.

This was Wawrinka's 51st career five-setter, which is tied for the sixth-most on record in men's tennis history, and his 29th such victory. The No. 4-seeded Medvedev, meanwhile? He is now 0-6 when going the distance.

The 15th-seeded Wawrinka will meet No. 7 Alexander Zverev, who put an end to No. 17 Andre Rublev's 15-match winning streak by beating him 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 Monday night.

Zverev, a 22-year-old German, is into his first quarter-final in Australia and third at a major tournament.

After beating No. 10 Gael Monfils 6-2, 6-4, 6-4 Monday.

For scouting purposes, sure, but also for its expected entertainment value.

After losing a second consecutive final at Roland Garros to Nadal in June, Thiem didn't win another match at a Grand Slam tournament in 2019,

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losing first-rounders at Wimbledon and the US Open. But now he's into his first quarter-final at Melbourne Park.

There was an Australian Open debut quarter-finalist on the women's side, too: No. 28 Anett Kontaveit of Estonia rallied from a set and a break down to beat 18-year-old Iga Swiatek of Poland 6-7 (4), 7-5, 7-5, despite being broken twice while serving for the match. Kontaveit, who had been 0-3 in the fourth round at majors, next plays two-time major champion and 2018 Australian Open runner-up Simona Halep.

"Mentally," Halep said after her 6-4, 6-4 win over Elise Mertens, "I think I did a great job today."

Another two-time Grand Slam title winner advanced to the quarter-finals when Garbine Muguruza eliminated No. 9 seed Kiki Bertens 6-3, 6-3.

Muguruza won the 2016 French Open and 2017 Wimbledon. She is unseeded at a Grand Slam tournament for the first time since the 2014 French Open.

Now she'll face the 30th-seeded Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, who defeated three-time major champion Angelique Kerber 6-7 (5), 7-6 (4).

Kerber won the 2016 Australian Open, and her departure means that there will be a first-time champion at Melbourne Park this year.