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PREMIER LEAGUE

Spurs rescue draw at Man Utd, Arsenal survive Leeds scare

Chelsea thrash Bournemouth 5-1 at Stamford Bridge, Villa played a 2-2 home draw against Brentford

AFP
London

Ten-man Tottenham salvaged a 1-1 against fellow strugglers Manchester United thanks to Dominic Solanke's last-gasp leveller, while Arsenal got back on track as the champions survived a scare to beat Leeds 2-1 yesterday.

In a clash dubbed 'El Sackicko' given the scrutiny on both managers, Bryan Mbeumo put United ahead in the 73rd minute at Old Trafford.

Mbeumo punished sloppy Tottenham marking to fire home from an acute angle after Matheus Cunha's pass picked him out in the penalty area.

Tottenham looked doomed when Uruguay midfielder Rodrigo Bentancur was sent off for headbutting United defender Luke Shaw in a brawl five minutes after United's opener.

But Solanke came to Tottenham's rescue in the final moments when he evaded United defender Lisandro Martinez to head in Sandro Tonali's cross.

It was a dramatic finale to a scrappy encounter in keeping with the problems gripping two under-achieving teams.

Tottenham sit third bottom of the table and remain winless after losing three of their first six league games.

United are languishing in 12th place with only one league so far this season.

Roberto De Zerbi saved Tottenham from relegation on the final day of last term after taking charge late in the campaign.

But despite spending over £300mn (\$429mn) on new signings in the close-season, his men look no better this season.

United were more conservative in the transfer market as they looked to build on last season's impressive third-place finish.



Tottenham Hotspur's Dominic Solanke (centre) celebrates with teammates after scoring a goal during the Premier League match against Manchester United at Old Trafford in Manchester yesterday. (AFP)

That decision looks to have backfired as Carrick struggles to get the best out of an inconsistent squad.

After a shock 3-0 defeat at Brighton before the three-week international break, Arsenal were in danger of a second successive loss when they fell behind at the Emirates Stadium.

James Justin fired Leeds ahead in the 55th minute after Arsenal failed to clear Gabriel Gudmundsson's cross.

But Italy defender Riccardo Calafiori found the cure when he converted Ben White's header from close-range in the 62nd

minute. Arsenal showcased their strength in depth as substitute Bruno Guimaraes drilled the winner from the edge of the area just six minutes after coming on.

Guimaraes' first goal at the Emirates since his close-season move from Newcastle made it five wins from six league matches for the Gunners.

The north London club sit in second place behind crisis-hit Manchester City on goal difference.

City travel to Liverpool on Sunday for their first match since being found guilty of more than 100 breaches of Premier League finan-

cial rules. "We weren't pleased against Brighton and today was an opportunity to put that right. We certainly reacted in the manner we expected," Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta said.

At Stamford Bridge, Chelsea's blistering start paved the way for a 5-1 rout of Bournemouth as the Blues won for the first time in four league matches.

Jordan Henderson gave Xabi Alonso's team the perfect start when the veteran midfielder curled home after just 68 seconds to claim his first goal for Chelsea.

The Blues struck again in the third minute as Morgan Rogers's



Arsenal's Riccardo Calafiori celebrates after scoring the equalising goal against Leeds United at the Emirates Stadium in London yesterday. (AFP)

drive deflected into the net off Bournemouth defender Antonio Silva.

Chelsea were on target just one minute after the interval through Joao Pedro's clinical finish from Pedro Neto's pass.

Evanilson got one back for Bournemouth in the 51st minute, deflecting in Moises Caicedo's miscued clearance as Chelsea's run without a league clean sheet extended to 22 matches.

But Joao Pedro put the result beyond doubt, poking in from close-range in the 67th minute for his fifth goal this season.

England midfielder Henderson,

36, bagged his second in the 70th minute with a fierce free-kick, taking free-scoring Chelsea to 23 goals in just eight games in all competitions this term.

"We signed him for everything and if he is able to score two beauties like today we are more than happy for him," Alonso said.

Aston Villa's troubled start continued with a disappointing 2-2 home draw against fourth-placed Brentford.

Ipswich beat winless Fulham 2-1 at Portman Road, while ten-man Brighton won 2-0 at Sunderland to cement their hold on third place.

QATAR STARS LEAGUE

Al Ahli hit Al Sailiya for five as Al Shahania edge Lusail

By Sports Reporter
Doha

Al Ahli thrashed bottom-placed Al Sailiya 5-0 while Al Shahania edged Lusail 1-0 in their respective round five matches of Qatar Stars League yesterday.

The resounding win took Al Ahli to 6th place in the standings from being eighth with a tally of 7 points while Al Shahania moved to seventh spot, also with 7 points.

Lusail slid eighth place with 5 points whereas Al Sailiya remain rooted in 12 place having suffered five successive defeats.

In the first game of the evening at the Khalifa International Stadium, Al Shahania rode on Mohamed Surag's sole 54th minute strike to prevail over a fighting Lusail.

Following a goalless opening half, both sides began the second session on a brighter note and Al Shahania soon seized the chance on a counter-attack as Jawad El Jemili made a run through and provided Surag with the cross to score.

Lusail tried hard to find an equalizer but many of their attempts were denied by Al Shahania goalkeeper Shehab Ellethy, who made as many as five crucial



Al Ahli's Naim Sliti scored a brace against Al Sailiya during their QSL match. **PICTURE:** Noushad Thekkayil

saves. In the 84th minute, Lusail were again unlucky as an Ali Nemati header hit the crossbar.

The later clash at the Al Thumama Stadium was an all out Al Ahli show. Naim Sliti set the tone early, finding the net in the 16th minute to open the scoring. Julian Draxler doubled the lead in the

34th minute with Sliti providing the assist, and Sliti struck again five minutes later to make it 3-0 at the break. Al Ahli did not ease off after the interval. Benjamin Bourigeaud added a fourth in the 48th minute from a Draxler assist, before Al Sailiya defender Ibrahim Majed put through his own net in

the 83rd minute to complete the rout. Al Ahli's attacking quartet of Sliti, Draxler and Bourigeaud was influential throughout, with Sliti involved in three of the first four goals, scoring twice and setting up another. For Al Sailiya, the heavy defeat will raise concerns after a difficult start.



Action from the Al Shahania-Lusail match.

CYCLING

Seixas youngest Giro di Lombardia winner

AFP
Como, Italy

French prodigy Paul Seixas ended his breakout season as a history-making Monument winner with a “dream” victory at the Giro di Lombardia yesterday.

At 20 years and 16 days, Seixas became the youngest ever winner of the Classic of the Falling Leaves and the fourth-youngest winner of a Monument.

“It’s crazy, I don’t think I realise it. Everything went perfect,” said a delighted Seixas.

“My team-mates did a great, awesome job. They all pushed more than what they had to do.

“I had amazing legs, I had the feeling today was a great day. I managed to make the difference at the moment I wanted to.”

And he added that “it was a dream” to win this race.

Vuelta a Espana champion Enric Mas took second place, 48sec

back, with Italian Giulio Ciccone rounding out the podium just over a minute behind the winner.

Seixas launched a devastating attack on the Civiglio climb with around 19km of the 239km one-day classic remaining, and within a kilometre, he had dropped all of his remaining challengers.

Olympic and European champion Remco Evenepoel was the first to flounder, followed shortly by pre-race favourite Isaac Del Toro and then world champion Brandon McNulty.

Evenepoel and McNulty eventually came home in fourth and fifth.

With cycling superstar Tadej Pogacar, the winner of the last five editions of Lombardia, missing due to injury, Seixas took his chance to end an incredible season as a Monument winner.

It was only his third ever Monument - the five most prestigious one-day classics on the calendar - having finished seventh at Lombardia last year and second at Liège-Bastogne-Liège in April.

Pogacar ended up winning won both of those.

This success completes a remarkable first full season in the professional ranks for Seixas.

He was fourth at the Tour de France - his debut Grand Tour - in July, having won the Tour of the Basque Country and La Fleche Wallonne earlier in the year.

He had also impressed in second-placed finishes at Strade Bianche, Liege and the Montreal GP.

But he endured a disappointing world championships last month, cramping up in the final stages and finishing 15th, although a week earlier he had won the time-trial bronze medal behind specialists Evenepoel and Filippo Ganna.

NO LOOKING BACK

The race started five minutes behind schedule as the riders staged a brief protest to draw attention to safety concerns following a series of incidents involving vehicles on race routes.

With the dominant Pogacar



Decathlon CMA CGM Team's French rider Paul Seixas celebrates with the trophy after winning the 120th edition of the Giro di Lombardia between Bergamo and Como yesterday. (AFP)

missing, it promised to be a thrilling race. Inside the final 60km, American Matteo Jorgenson and McNulty led a dangerous counter-

the gap, ensuring the five counter-attackers were brought back 15km later.

With 20km left, the breakaway riders had around 30sec on the peloton, now driven by McNulty's UAE Emirates XRG team-mate Adam Yates.

Seixas then upped the pace and soon passed the remaining breakaway riders, while dropping Evenepoel and Del Toro.

With 2km to go to the top of the Civiglio climb, only Tom Pidcock and Ciccone were able to follow Seixas.

But within another 500 metres, and still 18km to ride, he was alone.

Seixas had around 30sec over Ciccone and Mas over the top with the likes of Evenepoel, Del Toro and McNulty more than a minute adrift.

And from there, he never looked back.

Pidcock came home sixth, with Spanish veteran Pello Bilbao taking an impressive seventh place in his final race.

CRICKET

Record-breaking Renshaw puts Australia on top

RENSHAW AND LYON ADD RECORD 134 FOR NINTH WICKET

Reuters
Durban

Matt Renshaw struck a career-best 190 to guide Australia to 390 all out on day two of the first Test against South Africa at Kingsmead yesterday, as the home side reached 27 for one in reply before play was ended prematurely by bad light.

Aiden Markram (15 not out) and David Bedingham (12 not out) will resume on the third morning for South Africa, who were frustrated by the record-breaking innings of Renshaw.

Ryan Rickelton was the hosts' wicket to fall when he was caught at third slip by Beau Webster for a duck off the bowling of Josh Hazlewood.

The day belonged to Renshaw as he shared a record ninth-wicket stand of 134 for Australia against South Africa with Nathan Lyon (27), also the highest partnership for that wicket in Durban.

“There was a lot of thinking to-day while batting,” Renshaw said. “How many balls can I face? How do I get off strike when I need to? It was thinking what we can try and do, trying to find the right options, find a boundary if we could.

“Keeping them out in the field, getting their quicks coming back on. I saw (Marco) Jansen bowled 30-odd (overs), (Anrich) Nortje 30-odd, so they’ve got some overs into the frontline bowlers in the first innings of the first game.”

His score is the highest by a number five batter in Tests at Kingsmead, but he was out soon after tea when he edged spinner Simon Harmer to Markram



Australia's Matt Renshaw acknowledges the crowd on day two of the first Test at the Kingsmead stadium in Durban yesterday. (AFP)

at slip. Australia were in trouble early in Renshaw's innings as they slipped to 124 for six on day one.

EARLY TROUBLE

But Renshaw flipped the script after putting on 86 for the seventh wicket with skipper Pat Cummins (43).

Australia started the second day on 187 for six and frustrated the home side before Wiaan Mulder (4-68) had Cummins caught by Markram at second slip.

Mitchell Starc (6) followed quickly after being bowled by Mulder, and at it looked as

though South Africa would run through the lower order. Lyon was circumspect, however, and Renshaw rotated the strike superbly to make sure he had most of the strike and continued to accumulate runs rather than attack the bowling. Lyon fell LBW to Marco Jansen (3-68).

Renshaw's 190 has come off 397 balls, a classic Test innings of patience and waiting for the bad ball.

He was struck in the helmet by speedster Anrich Nortje, but he soon settled again and his second Test century came nine years after his first, 185 against Pakistan in 2017. Renshaw had made

single-figure scores in 11 of his previous 13 Test innings.

“He played beautifully throughout the innings, played what was in front of him and left well,” Mulder said. “The partnerships built around him and he played the situation as well as anyone could have at this level.

“It is a good cricket wicket and will get a bit up and down as the game goes on and spin more.”

BRIEF SCORES

South Africa 27 for 1 (Markram 15*, Bedingham 12*, Hazlewood 1-9) **trail Australia 390** (Renshaw 190, Cummins 43, Mulder 4-68, Jansen 3-68) **by 363 runs**

ANNOUNCEMENT

New Zealand's O'Rourke ruled out of India series

Reuters
Auckland

New Zealand fast-bowler Will O'Rourke will miss the series against India as he continues his rehabilitation from injuries to his left hamstring and calf, the country's cricket board said yesterday.

O'Rourke suffered a hamstring tear during New Zealand's Test series win over England in June, before hurting his calf in training in late August.

The 25-year-old will aim to return to full fitness ahead of a four-Test tour of neighbours Australia beginning on December 9.

“It's obviously disappointing for

Will to have to miss such a marquee tour at home against India,” New Zealand coach Rob Walter said in a statement.

“He was set to feature in both the ODI and Test series, but following subsequent discussions, we all agreed it was best for him to take some more time to rehabilitate both injuries and safely build up his bowling loads.

“Our pace bowling resources will be critical over the next few months so we're taking a conservative approach to Will's return to ensure he's fully fit before he takes the field again.” New Zealand host India in five Twenty20 internationals, five one-day internationals and two Tests, with the opening T20 in Christchurch on October 22.

Afghanistan skipper Rahmat thwarts Bangladesh in Abu Dhabi Test

ABU DHABI: Skipper Rahmat Shah hit a fighting unbeaten 84 to foil Bangladesh's bowling attack as Afghanistan reached 211-4 on the second day of the one-off Test in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

Rahmat stood tall on a dry and hot day against some probing pace and spin to bring Afghanistan within 135 runs of Bangladesh's first innings total of 346 at Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

Bangladesh resumed on 317-8 but managed just 29 runs in the first session.

Shah added a useful 70 runs for the third wicket with Abdul Malik, who scored a patient 62, after opener Sediqullah Atal fell for 17 and Shahidullah Kamal managed 20.

At close, Rahmat was unbeaten after batting for 186 balls while wicketkeeper Ikram Alikhil was 26 not out.

Bangladesh's pace attack of Hasan Mahmud and Ebadot Hossain gave their team early breakthroughs by removing Atal and Kamal before Rahmat found an able ally to avoid further losses.

Malik matched his skipper shot for shot, hitting a six and four fours in his maiden Test half-century, finally falling to Hossain to leave Afghanistan 134-3.

Five runs later, spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz had former skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi stumped by Litton Das for a duck.



Afghanistan's Rahmat Shah celebrates reaching his half century on day two of the one-off Test against Bangladesh.

Rahmat and Alikhil defied the bowling in the final session during their unbroken fifth-wicket stand of 72, boosting hopes of a first innings lead.

Hossain was the pick of Bangladesh's bowlers with 2-50.

Earlier, Bangladesh's last two wickets survived just 8.2 overs before they were bowled out for 346. Mohammad Saleem finished with 4-82 while fellow fast bowlers Yamin Ahmadzai (3-79) and Ismat Alam (2-20) also chipped in with useful wickets.

BRIEF SCORES

Afghanistan 211 for 4 (Rahmat 84*, Malik 62, Ebadot 2-50) **trail Bangladesh 346** (Tanzid 83, Shadman 67, Saleem 4-82, Ahmadzai 3-79) **by 135 runs**

GOLF

Australian veteran Scott surges into contention at Baycurrent Classic

Reuters,
Yokohama

Adam Scott shot a 6-under 65 yesterday and moved within one stroke of the leaders at the Baycurrent Classic in Yokohama, Japan, as he chases his first PGA Tour title since 2020.

The 46-year-old Australian is in a five-way tie for fourth place at 12-under, trailing Jacob Bridgeman (69 on Saturday), rookie Zach Bauchou (67) and Michael Brennan (65) entering the final round at Yokohama Country Club.

Scott, the 2013 Masters champion with 14 career wins on the PGA Tour, wrapped eagles at the par-5

sixth hole and par-4 ninth around a bogey at the par-3 seventh on Saturday to go with three birdies.

His last tour victory was at The Genesis Invitational in 2020 at Riviera Country Club.

“It's been like six years since I've won on the PGA Tour. I'm frustrated by that,” Scott said. “I feel like there's been some good golf in there and I haven't made the most of it, but it also shows how hard it is to win on the PGA Tour now.”

Scott has come close to ending the drought twice before this season, finishing fourth at The Genesis in February and tying for fourth at the Cadillac Championship in May.

“It would be nice just to win anything, to be honest with you, at

this point,” Scott said. “So this is a great chance for me tomorrow to go out and have a fantastic round and hopefully it's better than everyone else.”

Bridgeman, the first-round leader at the PGA Tour's only stop in Asia, endured an up-and-down round with six birdies and four bogeys. A stretch of three bogeys in four holes kept Bauchou from separating from the pack. Brennan had his low round of the tournament with seven birdies and one bogey.

Justin Thomas is part of the quintet tied with Scott at 12-under after posting five birdies and one bogey. He is looking for his fifth career PGA Tour title in Asia.

“I wish I knew because I would

love to channel it year-round all the time. I'm not sure. Yeah, I have a great track record. I'm going to try to use that to my advantage,” Thomas said of his success in Asia.

“I really enjoy coming to these events. I think it's just something to be said and kind of cool and special when you can play in front of people that we're never really going to get the chance to be in front of and see and play.”

Also tied for fourth are England's Jordan Smith (66), Germany's Stephan Jaeger (67) and second-round co-leader Keith Mitchell (70)

Defending champion Xander Schauffele is tied for 12th and four shots off the pace after a 6-under 65 yesterday.



TENNIS

Resurgent Zheng charges into China Open final

THE CHINESE STAR GETS SET TO TAKE ON MIRRA ANDREEVA



China's Zheng Qinwen celebrates after winning against Belgium's Elise Mertens at the China Open in Beijing yesterday (AFP)

AFP
Beijing

Resurgent Zheng Qinwen charged into the China Open final yesterday, beating Elise Mertens 7-5, 6-2, and will play Mirra Andreeva for the title at her home tournament. It is another step in the Olympic gold medalist's injury comeback, following a gritty showing at last month's US Open where she reached the quarter-finals. Zheng, a former world number four, had struggled with her form since needing elbow surgery in 2025 and is a wildcard entry in Beijing. "I had a great performance tonight," Zheng told the crowd afterwards. But, she added: "I would not say I'm back. I would say the best

version of me is still coming in the future." Zheng dropped just three points as she eased into a 3-0 lead, punching winners into the corner with searing accuracy. Her game faltered afterwards as she needed to warn the crowd to "stop speaking" before Mertens leveled to 4-4, but held her nerve to win the first set on the first time of asking. She carried that momentum into a dominant second set, closing out the match with 43 winners across the one-hour-and-a-half affair. **ANDREEVA FIRST TO SECURE FINAL SPOT** Earlier, Russian teenager Andreeva snagged the first spot in the final, brushing aside Nikola Bartunkova 6-2, 6-2. "I wanted to play aggressive today," said the 19-year-old, ranked five in the world. Andreeva raced into a 4-0 lead in the first



Russia's Mirra Andreeva hits a return to Czech Republic's Nikola Bartunkova at the China Open yesterday. (AFP)

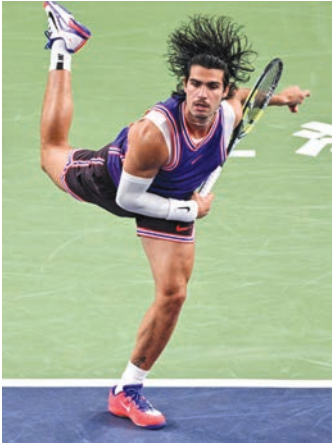
set as 34th-ranked Bartunkova double-faulted twice before giving away the fourth game. The 20-year-old Czech made 20 unforced errors across the 74-minute match and was outplayed by the French Open champion, who sent down 27 winners. Bartunkova saved the first match point but Andreeva triumphed on the second without much more fuss. "She's a very tricky opponent to play against... she sometimes manages to hit rockets out of nowhere," Andreeva said. "I tried to be brave no matter what," she said, adding that she calmed some nerves by playing the card game Uno with her coach before the semi-final. At four, Andreeva was the highest-seeded player left in the tournament by the quarter-finals after a run of upsets saw the departures of Elena Rybakina, Aryna Sabalenka and Coco Gauff.

SPOTLIGHT

Alcaraz wins in straight sets as Medvedev advances in Shanghai

AFP
Shanghai

A moustached Carlos Alcaraz beat Juan Manuel Cerundolo 6-3, 6-3 to kick-start his title bid at the Shanghai Masters yesterday, days after winning the Tokyo Open for his first trophy since returning from injury. The Spanish star, seeded second, put on a dominant show to brush aside the 55th-ranked Argentinian in the second round in just 66 minutes. "Really, really happy with the way I played today. It wasn't easy," said the 23-year-old former number one. "Just had two days of preparation... I came from Tokyo, there were totally different conditions," he added. "Just tried to play the best that I can." Sporting a fresh moustache, Alcaraz signed a camera "Moustache Team" following his win. Asked by an on-court interviewer about the new look, Alcaraz said: "It's gonna stay." "It was just about a bet," he elaborated later, telling reporters his team agreed to match moustaches in Shanghai if he won in Tokyo. "I wanted to play with a moustache, trying how I look with it," he said. "So let's see until when we're going to wear it, but right now we're just having fun." He will play Zizou Bergs in the next round. Earlier, Daniil Medvedev fought back to beat Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 in the second round, the Russian's first match since being disqualified from the China Open. Medvedev was defaulted from his semi-final against Novak Djokovic in Beijing for hitting a spectator with a ball and ended the 500-level event with zero ranking points and no prize money. The former world number one



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz serves to Argentina's Juan Manuel Cerundolo during the Shanghai Masters match yesterday. (AFP)

said it was an accident. Playing five days later in Shanghai, sixth-ranked Medvedev overcame an early wobble to hold off 59th-ranked Struff. Medvedev sent down 21 aces to advance. "When I broke him I felt like I could win it," the 30-year-old Medvedev said of a dominant third set in which he despatched a masterful backhand volley during the sixth game that helped him go up 4-2. The court was "different from Beijing," he told an on-court interviewer, adding "it was a bit tough to get used to." He faces either Czech qualifier Dalibor Svrčina or Tomas Martin Etcheverry of Argentina in the next round. World number five Felix Auger-Aliassime also survived a scare, needing three hours to beat 77th-ranked Camilo Ugo Carabelli 4-6, 7-6 (7/1), 7-5. The Canadian will play Spaniard Pablo Carreno Busta in the third round. Several matches in the afternoon were suspended due to rain, but Taylor Fritz, Casper Ruud and Arthur Fils all went through as play resumed.

UN office condemns racist abuse targeting Gauff

New York: The United Nations Human Rights office has condemned online racist abuse faced by **Coco Gauff** after a replayed point sparked a backlash against the American tennis player this week. Gauff was targeted after stopping play during a crucial point in her win over Sun Xinran at the China Open, raising her hand to complain about a flickering advertising board as Sun was about to hit a winner. The umpire ordered the point to be replayed after a video review, and Gauff went on to win the match 7-5 6-1, but the American later revealed in a social media post that she had received a huge amount of racist abuse following the match. "You can dislike me or disagree about what happened without being racist," Gauff, who is Black, said on X in reply to a post containing a racial slur. The official UN Human Rights office posted a statement on Saturday calling for players, coaches and

sports bodies to unite against racial and sexist abuse. "Racist messages such as those targeting tennis player Coco Gauff online are appalling and illustrate that Black female athletes are specifically targeted for vitriol and racial abuse," it wrote on X. "There is no place in sport for racial or sexist slurs and abuse. Players, coaches, and sports bodies need to stand up for those facing such attacks and fans need to push back against those who sully sport with racism and sexism." Reuters has contacted the WTA, the governing body of women's tennis, and tournament organisers in Beijing for comment. Twice Grand Slam winner Gauff exited the tournament on Wednesday with a round-of-16 loss, and said the incident had left her drained. A study by the WTA and World Tennis showed players were subjected to over 12,000 abusive posts and messages on social media in 2025, up from 8,000 posts the previous year.

QATAR DESERT RACING CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND 3 HELD



The Qatar Motor and Motorcycle Federation (QMMF) organised Round 3 of the Qatar Desert Racing Championship, 'Survival 2', for motorcycles in Sealine, with the participation of 37 riders from various countries. At the conclusion of the race, QMMF Executive Director Amro al-Hamad and Race Director Pedro Almeida presented trophies to the winners. The top three riders in Class 1 (Motorcycles) included Ethan Lane, Alex McInnes and Mohammad al-Balooshi. The top three riders in Class 2 (Quads) included Mansour al-Suwaidi, Abdulaziz Ahli and Ali al-Marzouki.

FOCUS

Marquez grabs MotoGP championship lead after Indonesia sprint chaos

AFP
Jakarta, Indonesia

Spain's Marc Marquez seized the lead from compatriot Jorge Martin in the MotoGP world championship following victory in a thrilling and chaotic sprint race in Indonesia yesterday. Ducati's reigning seven-time world champion took the chequered flag in a dramatic 13-lap sprint to go four points clear of his fellow Spaniard in the standings. Martin, who had led the race on his Aprilia at the halfway point, finished fourth in blistering hot and dry conditions at the Mandalika International Circuit. Japan's Ai Ogura (Aprilia-Trackhouse) and Italy's Fabio Di Giannantonio (Ducati-VR46) were second and third. "I feel better and better," said Marquez, who now has 343 points to Martin's 339 and hit the front for the first time this year. "I tried to manage the race, I tried to manage the gap between me and Ai Ogura, and this was a very important win." There are just five race weekends after this. There was mayhem at the start as Spain's debutant pole-sitter Raul Fernandez and Marco Bezzecchi of Italy collided and crashed out on the first corner.



Marc Marquez celebrates after winning the sprint race at the Indonesian Grand Prix at Mandalika International Street Circuit. (AFP)

Martin took full advantage to seize the lead, with championship rival Marquez second, both having started from the second row. With his compatriot breathing down his neck, Martin held his nerve to streak 1.5 seconds ahead at the halfway stage. But the former world champion, having been cruising, then abruptly slowed up and surrendered the lead to Marquez, possibly because of tyre pressure issues. That gifted the lead to Marquez, who romped home for his first win in Indonesia. The Grand Prix is today.

FORMULA 1

Red Bull's Verstappen claims 50th career pole

Reuters
Singapore

Red Bull's Max Verstappen claimed the 50th pole position of his career when he went fastest in qualifying under the lights at the Singapore Grand Prix yesterday, repeating his heroics from the sprint qualifying session a day earlier. Verstappen clocked one minute 31.373 seconds at the Marina Bay Street Circuit and will have Ferrari's Charles Leclerc alongside him on the front row, with the Monegasque driver just 0.054 seconds slower than the four-times champion. Leclerc's team mate Lewis Hamilton was third fastest and championship leader Kimi Antonelli was fourth quickest for Mercedes. "The margins are very close between us throughout all of qualifying, so of course, very happy to be on pole because this is the one that I wanted," Verstappen said ahead of his 250th race. "The car has been pretty strong all weekend. Of course, I always think that you can be better, but it was enough for pole, so very happy with that." Verstappen, who won a chaotic sprint in wet conditions earlier on Saturday, topped the timesheets despite gearbox issues in Q2 to claim his second



Red Bull Racing's Dutch driver Max Verstappen celebrates winning the sprint race ahead of the Singapore Grand Prix at the Marina Bay Street Circuit in Singapore yesterday. (AFP)

straight pole of the season. Leclerc had struggled in Q1 and Q2 but found his groove in Q3 to put Ferrari on the front row right at the end of the session. "I had some weird things going on with the brakes, car pulling a bit under braking, which is not so nice on a track like here," Leclerc said. "But then in Q3, the lap was okay. I did some mistakes. I think there was a potential to be on pole today, but Max just did a better job."

With celebrity girlfriend Kim Kardashian watching on from the Ferrari garage, Hamilton topped Q1 and Q2 at a circuit where he has four victories, but the Briton could not reproduce his form in Q3. "There's a real fine line with our car where it's over the edge or under the limit and finding that sweet spot is very, very difficult," said seven-times world champion Hamilton. Mercedes driver George Russell, second in the champion-

ship, was sixth fastest in Q3 but the Briton is set to start from the back of the grid due to his engine penalty as he looks to bridge the 89-point gap to Antonelli.

HADJAR LOSES 100% Q3 RECORD

Drivers struggled under braking in the first session, with Esteban Ocon and Lance Stroll both forced to abandon their laps, but the biggest casualty of Q1 was Verstappen's team mate Isack Hadjar. The Frenchman complained about an issue with his gearbox before the 22-year-old returned to the garage without setting a lap time, losing his 100% record of qualifying for Q3 this year. "Nothing Isack could have done. We had a gearbox issue on his car," Red Bull team principal Laurent Mekies told Sky Sports. Verstappen also complained about gearbox issues despite advancing from Q2. "Insanely, insanely bad shifts," he said. "The downshifts are so bad." Reigning champion Lando Norris and McLaren team mate Oscar Piastri will line up on the third row after the stewards took no further action following the collision between the two drivers in the sprint. Alpine's Pierre Gasly will start seventh on the grid followed by the Racing Bulls of Liam Lawson and Arvid Lindblad, and Audi's Nico Hulkenberg completed the top 10.

BUNDESLIGA

Augsburg nets fastest goal but Bayern fight back to snatch draw

'It feels more like a defeat. On another day we would have won this game'

AFP
Berlin

Bayern Munich twice came from behind to draw 2-2 at Augsburg yesterday after a mistake from Manuel Neuer led to the fastest goal in Bundesliga history.

Neuer handed Augsburg the lead after 8.4 seconds with an error that Robin Fellhauer capitalised on, before two assists from Harry Kane helped rescue a point in the second half.

Bayern missed the chance to knock Borussia Dortmund off top spot after the draw and remain two points behind the league leaders in second.

"It feels more like a defeat. On another day we would have won this game, but that's football. We gave away two sloppy goals and they punished us for it," Kane told Dazn.

Augsburg could not believe their luck after 40-year-old Neuer's howler handed them the lead after just eight seconds.

Having received the ball straight from kick-off, Neuer chipped it directly into the path of Fellhauer, who ran it into the empty net.

"We would have preferred a better start, but Manu has played football long enough. He can't change what happened, he just needs to do what he's always done in his career and keep on showing how good he is," Bayern coach Vincent Kompany told Dazn.

The Bundesliga later confirmed the goal had beaten the previous record of nine seconds held jointly by Kevin Volland and Karim Belarabi. "Those guys must have been really slow," Fellhauer told Sky with a laugh after the game.

"In all seriousness, it's an unbelievable feeling because a record like this means you're part of something really big."

Bayern remained shellshocked for much of the first half and were lucky not to go 2-0 down when Juma Bah missed a sitter on 36 minutes.

The visitors found the net



Bayern Munich's Nathaniel Brown (left) celebrates scoring the 2-2 goal with his teammates Harry Kane (right) and Aleksandar Pavlovic during the Bundesliga match against Augsburg yesterday. (AFP)

shortly after the break when Augsburg 'keeper Finn Dahmen fumbled a brilliant volley from Luis Diaz, but the goal was ruled out for an offside in the build-up.

Ismael Saibari broke Augsburg's resistance a few minutes later as the Moroccan slotted the ball home after an elegant assist from Kane. Yet the hosts struck back quickly, thanks in part to another off-colour moment from Neuer.

After Augsburg unlocked the defence with a long ball forward, Neuer parried Calvin Brackelmann's shot straight at Rodrigo Ribeiro, who smashed the ball under the bar to restore the lead.

Both Diaz and Serge Gnabry had goals ruled out for offside before Kane set up Nathaniel Brown for Bayern's second equaliser ten minutes from time.

Leverkusen win thriller

In yesterday's late game, RB Leipzig rampaged to a 6-0 win over

Eintracht Frankfurt thanks to a Christopher Nkunku hat-trick.

Goals from Ezechiele Banzuzi and Nkunku put Leipzig 2-0 up within five minutes.

Just as Frankfurt were getting back into the game, Nkunku added two more quickfire goals on the stroke of half time.

Antonio Nusa swept in a fifth after the break and Tidiam Gomis ran through the Frankfurt defence to add a sixth late in the game.

There was also drama elsewhere, as Bayer Leverkusen grabbed a rollercoaster 4-3 win in Mainz while Hamburg snatched a late 3-2 win away at Hoffenheim.

Robert Andrich gave Leverkusen the lead with a superb volley after just five minutes, before Patrik Schick doubled the lead with a smart finish four minutes later.

Anthony Caci dragged Mainz back into the game, scoring twice to level the scores before half time. Second-half goals from Jarell

Quansah and Moussa Diaby put Leverkusen back in control, before Benedict Hollerbach grabbed a late third for Mainz.

Yussuf Poulsen bundled in an early opener for Hamburg, before Fisnik Asllani jabbed home an equally scrappy equaliser for Hoffenheim.

Bambase Conte put Hoffenheim in the lead with a brilliant shot from outside the area early in the second half, but a red card for his team mate Bernardo swung the game back in Hamburg's favour.

The visitors had one late equaliser ruled out by VAR before Terem Moffi equalised with an 83rd minute header and Miro Muheim grabbed a stoppage-time winner.

In other games, goals from Jeff Chabot and Chris Fuehrich sealed a comfortable 2-0 win for Stuttgart at Paderborn, while Livan Burcu struck late to hand Union Berlin a nervy 1-0 win at home to Elversberg.

SPOTLIGHT

Portugal suspend Ronaldo after walking out on national team

AFP
Barcelona

Cristiano Ronaldo has been provisionally suspended after the Portuguese Football Federation (FPF) announced on Saturday that it had opened disciplinary proceedings against the 41-year-old over his decision to walk out on the national team.

Ronaldo apologised to supporters earlier this week while criticising Portugal coach Jorge Jesus and said he would accept any punishment that was imposed.

"Disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against Cristiano Ronaldo," said the FPF in a statement, classifying the case as "urgent" and confirming Ronaldo is currently suspended pending a decision on the final punishment.

Ronaldo left Portugal's Nations League squad after first being made to warm up as a substitute against Norway on September 27 and not brought on, and then finding out he would not start against Denmark in the match on October 1.

The former Real Madrid and Manchester United attacker is the all-time top goalscorer and record appearance-maker in men's international football.

According to Portuguese media, under the federation's regulations, a player who misses a training session, a match, or a national team activity faces a suspension ranging from one to six months.

On Tuesday, Ronaldo accused Portugal coach Jesus of breaking his word about giving him game time in Nations League matches but said he was not retiring from international duty and would be

available to play once any potential punishment was served.

"I will be available, as I have always been until today, to compete and win for our national team," Ronaldo said, while accepting his actions must be "punished" by the federation.

Ronaldo said Jesus had gone back on his word about bringing him on against Norway, and then in a press conference before the Denmark match had not said a series of points they had agreed upon during a conversation beforehand.

One of Ronaldo's pre-approved talking points was that Jesus had "made a mistake in asking someone of the stature of Pele or Maradona to warm up and then not sending him on in the match."

Jesus chose not to respond to Ronaldo's statement when asked about it.

"I read the statement, and now, like I do every day, I'm going to the federation headquarters to work, to think about the Portuguese national team," said the 72-year-old coach.

Jesus said last Sunday he would select Ronaldo for international duty if the forward was playing for his club and was interested in being called up.

Portugal won all four of their Nations League matches and qualified for the quarter-finals with two games to spare.

Portugal host Denmark on November 14 and then travel to face Wales on November 17 in their final two Nations League Group A4 matches.

Ronaldo returned to club action on Friday with Saudi Arabian side Al-Nassr and scored as they won 3-0 against Diriyah in a Saudi Pro League match. It was the striker's 980th career goal.



Inter dominate Parma to go top in Serie A

Inter Milan surged to the top of Serie A yesterday thanks to three goals in the first half an hour to defeat an outclassed Parma 3-0 in the San Siro.

The three-week international break has not diminished the pace of the reigning Italian champions. Even without captain Lautaro Martinez, who was rested until the hour mark after his return from Argentina and Lionel Messi's international farewell match, the titleholders were never threatened. Capitalising on a poor clearance by Parma's goalkeeper, Petar Susic opened the scoring in the 13th minute.

Five minutes later, Hakan Calhanoglu doubled the lead from the penalty spot. Overlooked for the latest France squad, Marcus Thuram reminded Zinedine Zidane of his quality by making it 3-0 after 31 minutes with his third goal of the campaign.

Inter have 16 points from six games and move three points ahead of Roma and Lazio, who both play on Sunday, against Como and newly-promoted Monza respectively.

New Parma coach Alberto Gilardino got off to a losing start as his team never got into the game and sit 17th with four points.

Just behind, Fiorentina return to the relegation places after a 2-1 defeat to Genoa, who move out of the drop zone thanks to their first win of the season. Italian runners-up Napoli, in ninth, host newly promoted Frosinone in late game.

Under-pressure Napoli coach Massimiliano Allegri welcomes back Scotland midfielder Scott McTominay who underwent heart surgery last month and is on the bench for his first match since August 30.

BARCELONA EXTEND PERFECT STREAK

Anthony Gordon scored his first goal for Barcelona as the Spanish champions extended their perfect start in La Liga with a 3-0 win over Getafe yesterday.

England winger Gordon opened the scoring in the second minute and Gabriel Jesus added another after half an hour for the league leaders, who have won every match they have played this season. France defender Jules Kounde tucked home the third from Lamine Yamal's cross to cap Barca's solid win against Jose Bordalas's side at Camp Nou. Barca moved five points clear of second-placed Atletico Madrid, who won 2-1 at Alaves earlier, and lead Real Madrid, fourth, by nine points before Los Blancos host Villarreal later on.

Barca were without their top scorer Raphinha, who sustained a hamstring problem during the international break with Brazil. Flick replaced him with former Arsenal striker and Seleccion compatriot Jesus and his side came roaring out of the blocks.

Gordon, who has impressed since joining this summer, grabbed his first Barca goal with a low deflected effort after bundling his way past three players. He was Barca's brightest spark in the first half, continuing his fine goalscoring form for England in the recent Nations League matches. Barca defender Eric Garcia forced a save from Getafe goalkeeper David Soria with a drive from distance as Flick's side controlled the game. Getafe defender Zaid Romero gave the ball away in his own box for Barca's second, passing it straight to Jesus, who stroked into the bottom corner.

EQUESTRIAN

Al-Eid claims Diamond Tour at Hathab



Deputy Championship Director Saeed al-Rashdi presented the awards to the podium winners of the Diamond Tour in Round Two of the Qatar Equestrian Tour - Longines Hathab at Qatar Equestrian Federation's indoor arena.

By Sports Reporter
Doha

Khaled Abdulaziz al-Eid of Saudi Arabia won the Diamond Tour on the third and final day of the second round of the 10th Longines Hathab Qatar Equestrian Tour yesterday at the Qatar Equestrian Federation's indoor arena.

Al Eid topped the 150cm Diamond Tour in a time of 38.06 seconds on Rakker DMC without incurring any penalties. Fellow Saudi rider Abdulaziz

Fahad Aleid finished second in 39.33 seconds on Q Hayen, while Qatar's Hamad Nasser al-Qadi took third place on Happy Tina with a time of 35.94 seconds.

Deputy Championship Director Saeed al-Rashdi presented the awards to the podium winners of the category.

In the 120cm Bronze Tour dominated by Qatari riders, Khalid Jassim al-Suwaidi won on E.T's Queeny Z with a time of 28.16 seconds without penalties.

Sharida Nasser al-Kaabi finished second on Extra Pam in 29.37 seconds, while Suhaim Hamad



Chairman of the Championship's Ground Jury Ahmed al-Badawi honoured the Future Riders' class winners at QEF's indoor arena.

al-Yafei took third place on Miss Tarara Les Hauts after clocking 29.80 seconds.

In the team category, Team Ajwad secured first place with a combined time of 62.84 seconds, followed by Team Al Bidda in second place (68.89 seconds) and Team Al Shaqab in third (56.22 seconds).

Member of the Championship Organizing Committee Khalid Sannad al-Nuaimi honoured the podium winners of the Bronze Tour.

Meanwhile, Sultan Jassim al-Suwaidi won the Future Riders class over 90cm obstacles

on Khaleesi, recording a time of 16.60 seconds without penalties. Mashael Mohammed al-Thani finished second on Reve du Coeur des Collines in 17.83 seconds, while Alqaqaa bin Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani took third place on Early Star d'Alfa in 18.42 seconds.

Chairman of the Championship's Ground Jury Ahmed al-Badawi presented the awards.

The Longines Hathab Qatar Equestrian Tour, organised by the Qatar Equestrian Federation in partnership with Al Shaqab, runs until June 2027.