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Harmer, Rabada wrap up South Africa series win over Australia



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Brighton stun Man City, 10-man Man United lose to Chelsea

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MOTORSPORT

Al-Attiyah clinches FIA Middle East Baja Cup title with Qatar Baja victory

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Sheikh Joaan inaugurates first BAL4HER basketball court in Senegal





HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad al-Thani, President of the Olympic Council of Asia, inaugurated the BAL4HER basketball court in Guidiaoue, Senegal, as part of an initiative to promote basketball and expand opportunities for girls in sport. The court is the first BAL4HER facility in Africa and is the result of a partnership between Qatar Foundation and the Basketball Africa League (BAL). The initiative aims to create an inclusive sporting space where young men and women can come together, play basketball and pursue their ambitions. Sheikh Joaan praised the partnership, saying it had helped turn the belief in sport's power to empower communities into reality. He also thanked BAL President Amadou Gallo Fall and everyone involved in bringing the initiative to fruition.

300 DAYS TO GO

FIBA World Cup 2027 countdown clock unveiled

THE TOURNAMENT WILL BE HELD FROM AUG 27 TO SEPT 12

By Sports Reporter
Doha

The FIBA Basketball World Cup Qatar 2027 Local Organising Committee (LOC) yesterday unveiled the official Tissot Countdown Clock, marking 300 days to go until the tournament, which Qatar will host from August 27 to September 12, 2027. The tournament will feature 32 national teams and taking place in the Middle East and North Africa for the first time.

The clock was unveiled during a special ceremony held at Barahat Msheireb, attended by a large number of officials from FIBA and the Local Organising Committee, alongside ambassadors, partners and key stakeholders, who gathered to celebrate the approaching tournament and the ongoing preparations for the event.

Those on hand at the ceremony included FIBA President Sheikh Saud bin Ali al-Thani; Vice President of the Local Organising Committee and Secretary General of the Qatar Olympic Committee Jassim bin Rashid al-Buenain; Director General of the Local Organising Committee Dr. Ahmad Abdulla al-Buenain; Chair of the Organising Committee for the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2027 Burton Shipley; and former Turkish basketball star and President of the Turkish Basketball Federation Hidayet Turkoglu.

The clock's design reflects basketball's global appeal, featuring a giant basketball hoop and a front arch inspired by the face of a watch. Its open structure allows visitors to approach and walk through the installation, while the interconnected net pattern symbolizes the diversity of cultures and communities and basketball's unique ability to bring people together.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ahmad Abdulla Al-Buenain said: "With 300 days to go until the tournament, we are one step closer to welcoming the world to Qatar. The unveiling of the countdown clock at Barahat Msheireb marks an important milestone, bringing basketball fans in Qatar and around the world together. We look forward to delivering a tournament that celebrates basketball, unites people and inspires future generations."

He added: "All competition venues were fully ready by the one-year-to-go milestone, building on the significant legacy of the international sporting events Qatar has hosted over the years. We aim to ensure that the tournament leaves a sustainable legacy by promoting basketball, identifying and developing national talent, creating more opportunities for young people to play the game, and making use of our facilities and organizational expertise to host future events."



Officials at the launch of the countdown clock marking 300 days to go until the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2027, which Qatar will host from August 27 to September 12.



Former Turkish basketball star and President of the Turkish Basketball Federation Hidayet Turkoglu speaks during the event.

He continued: "Over the coming months, leading up to the opening game on August 27, we will celebrate key milestones and unveil our plans to deliver an exceptional edition of the tournament, giving fans the opportunity to attend more than one game a day, thanks to the close proximity of all competition venues within a single city."

Shipley commented: "The unveiling of the countdown clock heightens anticipation even further for the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2027 and will also add even more momentum towards next year's tip-off.

"We are grateful to our longstanding Global Partner Tissot for their support in bringing this landmark countdown installation to life in collaboration with the Local Organizing Committee. The clock will provide a daily reminder of the excitement building towards the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2027."

"We have been working on the event for many years and now we are entering the last phase to ensure it is an unforgettable World Cup for everyone to enjoy, from the players, coaches, staff and fans, to our proud and respected hosts, here in Qatar."

Qatar is preparing to host the 20th edition of the FIBA Basketball World Cup, which will be the first in the competition's history to be staged entirely in one city, allowing fans to travel easily between venues and attend multiple games in a single day.

Tickets for the FIBA Basketball World Cup Qatar 2027 are available through the official ticketing website.

SPOTLIGHT

Senegal kicks off Youth Games

Agencies
Dakar, Senegal

The Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026 officially opened with a colourful ceremony at the 55,000-capacity Abdoulaye Wade Stadium in Senegal yesterday, marking the first time an Olympic event has been staged on African soil.

More than 1,000 performers took part in the historic ceremony, with around 2,700 athletes aged 14 to 17 set to compete at the Games. Qatar will be represented by four athletes: Adam Morsi in swimming, Dana Salem and Abobaker Idris in athletics, and Adham al-Deeb in fencing.

Morsi will be the first Qatari in action, competing in the 100m and 50m breaststroke on November 3 and 5, respectively. Idris will contest the 110m hurdles, while al-Deeb will compete in the individual foil event on November 9. Salem is scheduled to race in the 200m on November 10.

The event will see the return of Russian athletes to the Olympics and also includes a refugee team. Overall, the young athletes will compete across 25 sports and 153 medal events.

Senegalese culture took centre stage at the Opening Ceremony, as the host nation showcased the continent's rhythms, traditions and sporting heritage while welcoming the world to Africa's first Olympic event. Traditional music, dance, wrestling and contemporary art featured prominently in the show, offering a glimpse of Senegal's cultural identity to a global audience.

Built around the theme 'The Rise of Sitoé', the colourful ceremony took spectators on a journey through Africa's past, present and future, using three generations of characters to tell the story.

"Today it's not just a nation that is welcoming the Youth Olympic Games, it's an entire continent that is opening its arms", Senegalese President Bassirou Diomaye Faye told a sport and development summit Saturday ahead of the Games' opening ceremony.

The Games will not only celebrate champions but also "our collective capacity to transform sport into an economic and social engine", he said, emphasizing that 130 years of Olympic history had passed before the Olympic flame ever landed on African soil.

Events ranging from athletics to beach wrestling, rugby sevens to breaking, will be held across eight venues in three locations.

Dakar, the nearby suburb of Diamniadio and the beach town of Saly located some 80 kilometres (50 miles) from the capital, will all host events.

The Games are "showing the world our capacity (as Africa), a capacity that sometimes is underestimated", International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Kirsty Coventry, a former Zimbabwean swimmer, said Saturday during the summit.

A total of 136 Senegalese athletes will participate in the Youth Olympics, with some 6,000 volunteers from Senegal helping put on the event.

The west African nation is renowned for its sports culture, including its football team, traditional wrestling and surf scene.

The Dakar Youth Games will also welcome a refugee Olympic team, composed primarily of athletes based in Africa.

The IOC has called the Dakar Games an important milestone for the continent and an opportunity to showcase Senegal's cultural richness and Africa's growing role within the Olympics.



Olympic rings are displayed during the Opening Ceremony of the 2026 Youth Olympic Games at the Abdoulaye Wade Stadium in Senegal.

SPORT

MATCH REPORT

Zaman shines as Pakistan win tri-series

Reuters
Lahore

Fakhar Zaman's superb century powered Pakistan to a three-wicket victory over Sri Lanka in the One-Day International tri-series final in Lahore yesterday, ending the hosts' long wait for the title.

Zaman's 127 off 99 balls anchored the chase after an early wobble, while Salman Agha provided crucial support before Arafat Minhas' half-century paved the way for victory.

Pakistan chasing down a target of 326, finished on 331 with nine balls to spare to complete the joint-highest successful chase in an ODI final.

Earlier, Sri Lanka posted a formidable 325 for eight wickets, built around Kamindu Mendis' outstanding 131 off 128 balls and a fluent 77 from Pavan Rathnayake.

The pair shared a crucial 146-run partnership before Pakistan struck late to curb any hopes of a 340-plus surge, with Shaheen Shah Afridi taking two wickets for 50 runs.

The victory secured Pakistan's first ODI tri-series title since 2008, when they beat India in the Kitply Cup final in Bangladesh, and made amends for their defeat to New Zealand in the final of a home tri-series in 2025.

Pakistan suffered early setbacks as Dilshan Madushanka struck twice in the powerplay, including the prized wicket of Babar Azam for a five-ball duck. Zaman and Saad Baig rebuilt the innings with an impressive 149-run partnership and Baig brought up his maiden ODI fifty before Maheesh Theekshana ended his knock for 74 off 75 balls.

Zaman accelerated after reaching his half-century and went on to register his 12th ODI century, partnering with Agha in a brisk 57-run stand that kept Pakistan firmly on course in the chase. The left-hander eventually fell to Madushanka, followed soon by Agha for 17, leaving Pakistan at 230-5. However, Minhas' and Hasan Nawaz's 94-run partnership ultimately carried the hosts to the target.

Sri Lanka made a strong start after being put in to bat, with opener Avishka Fernando and Kamindu Mendis adding 51 runs in the powerplay. Fernando's dismissal in the 18th over ended the opening stand, and Pakistan struck again soon after when captain Kusal Mendis fell to Agha, leaving the visitors at 109-2.

Kamindu and Rathnayake steadied the innings with a fluent 146-run partnership off 119 deliveries. The stand kept Sri Lanka firmly in control until Kamindu, who brought up his maiden ODI century, fell after hitting 12 fours and two sixes.

Pakistan fought back in the death overs, triggering a collapse as Afridi and Haris Rauf removed Dasun Shanaka and Rathnayake within the space of two overs. Sahan Arachchige provided a late cameo with a brisk 15 off 12 deliveries before falling to Naseem Shah.



Pakistan's players celebrate with the trophy after the team's win at the end of the one-day international tri-series final against Sri Lanka in Lahore yesterday. *(AFP)*

BRIEF SCORES
Pakistan 331 for 7 (Fakhar 127, Baig 74, Minhas 61, Madushanka 3-63) **beat Sri Lanka 325 for 8** (Kamindu 131, Rathnayake 77, Agha 2-44, Afridi 2-50) **by three wickets**
Man of the Match: Fakhar Zaman

CRICKET

Harmer, Rabada steer South Africa to Test series win

AUSTRALIA BOWLED OUT FOR 111 AS HOSTS CLINCH SERIES 2-1

Reuters
Cape Town


South Africa's Simon Harmer hugs captain Temba Bavuma as they celebrate the wicket of Australia's Pat Cummins on day five of the third Test at Newlands stadium in Cape Town yesterday. *(AFP)*

South Africa spinner Simon Harmer took a career-best 6-16 and Kagiso Rabada became the fastest by balls bowled to reach 350 Test wickets as the hosts thumped Australia by 176 runs to clinch their three-match series 2-1 at Newlands yesterday.

Set a target of 288 for victory, the tourists were bowled out for 111 as South Africa leapfrogged them to go top of the Test world rankings for the first time since January 2016.

Australia had hopes of chasing down the total but lost two wickets in the first over of the final day and slumped to 62 for eight as their effort became a battle of survival that South Africa ended before tea.

There will be questions asked of this Australia side in the wake of the defeat, not least another poor batting display and the decision to bowl on the opening morning that left them batting last on a wearing wicket.

"The trend of this game was once you got yourself in there were runs to be had," Australia captain Pat Cummins said. "But within the first hour the game was away from us and we did not give ourselves a chance.

"We are a really good side but playing tough opponents away from home is always difficult. We came here thinking we were good enough to win but we couldn't do it."

Hopes of victory evaporated in the first half hour as Rabada (3-39) removed the top three batters to take his tally to 350 test wickets, taking 13,808 deliveries, fewer than compatriot Dale Steyn (14,719) and Pakistan's Waqar Younis (14,905).

After that Harmer came into his own, exploiting the conditions expertly to also claim a first 10-wicket haul in tests with figures of 10-120 across the match.

Rabada removed opener Matt Renshaw (0), caught by wicketkeeper Ryan Rickelton down the leg side, and the struggling Marnus Labuschagne (4) leg before wicket in the first over of the innings. He then had the dangerous Travis Head caught at gully by Marco Jansen to rock Australia early on. First-innings centurion Josh Inglis (4) was run out attempting a quick single to compound Australia's woes, and from there Harmer took the last six wickets. Cummins (11 from 90 balls) and innings top-scorer Nathan Lyon (33 not out) delayed the inevitable with a ninth-wicket stand that lasted 17.2 overs, but Harmer trapped the former lbw and then bowled Josh Hazlewood to seal the win.

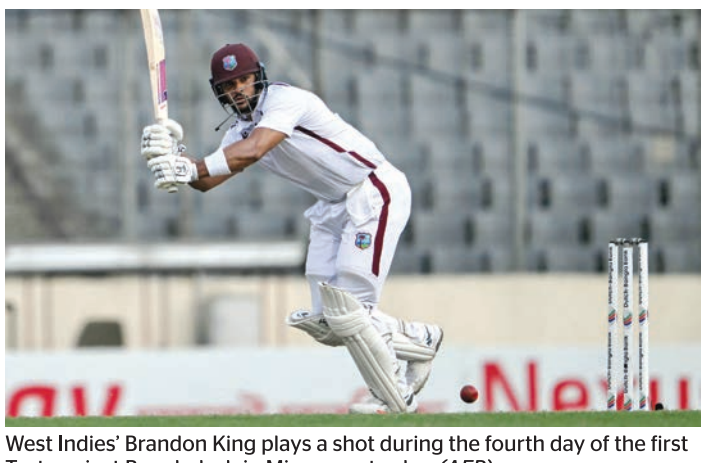
"It was just understanding what I needed to do, getting the ball in the right areas as often as I could, and playing with my pace and trajectories, the little nuances I have learnt along the way. It all worked out alright," Harmer said. "Today was a lot of fun, fielders around the bat and trying to get the win. That is the stuff of dreams for a spinner."

The victory also keeps alive South Africa's hopes of defending their World Test Championship title next year having beaten Australia at Lord's in the previous decider in 2025.

BRIEF SCORES
South Africa 329 (Ackerman 95, Markram 78, Starc 6-72) **and 387** (Mulder 115, Rickelton 101, Ackerman 62, Starc 3-65) **beat Australia 429** (Inglis 102, Carey 80, Harmer 4-104, Jansen 3-60) **and 111** (Lyon 33*, Harmer 6-16, Rabada 3-39) **by 176 runs.**

SPOTLIGHT

West Indies crush Bangladesh by eight wickets in first Test


West Indies' Brandon King plays a shot during the fourth day of the first Test against Bangladesh in Mirpur yesterday. *(AFP)*

AFP
Mirpur, Bangladesh

Brandon King struck a career-best 81 not out as West Indies cruised to an eight-wicket win over Bangladesh in the first Test yesterday to take a 1-0 lead in the two-match series.

King hit 10 fours and a six in his 115-ball knock to help the visitors chase down the target of 170 in 35.1 overs on the fourth day in Mirpur after Bangladesh were bowled out for 142 in their second innings.

Jomel Warrican, who was named player of the match, claimed 4-63 to follow up his five-wicket haul in Bangladesh's first innings as the hosts were bowled out in 48.4 overs.

West Indies captain Roston Chase took 5-36 in the second innings, his fifth five-wicket haul in Test cricket.

Chase said the team was determined to win the series and go up in the rankings.

"The guys were determined, even though we didn't have a good start in the first innings," Chase said. "We lost the lead, but we were still determined to fight back and try to win the game, and that's what we did."

Bangladesh had resumed the fourth day at 79-6, holding a lead of 106, but their hopes of setting a challenging target suffered an early blow when Jaker Ali edged Warrican to slip, where Chase took the catch.

Jaker, who scored 22 off 34 balls, was the second-highest scorer for Bangladesh in the innings.

Nayeem Hasan survived two dropped catches off Chase, on 21 and 29, to keep Bangladesh going.

He added 26 runs with Hasan Mahmud before Warrican trapped the latter lbw for eight.

Taijul Islam contributed eight in a 17-run partnership with Nayeem before Chase dismissed him to leave Bangladesh at 127-9.

Nayeem then reached his maiden Test half-century off 87 balls, with four boundaries, but his resistance ended when he attempted to hit Chase over long-on and was caught by Joshua Bishop.

He made 52 off 91 balls, while Shoriful Islam remained unbeaten on seven as Bangladesh were dismissed cheaply.

Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto said his team failed to execute their plans.

"All three departments didn't do well, especially in the field. These things can happen sometimes, but I believe the intention and preparation were quite good," he said.

"Going forward, we need to look at those areas and work out how we can do better in these conditions."

The second Test will be played in Sylhet from November 5.

BRIEF SCORES
West Indies 245 (Chanderpaul 56, Campbell 54, Hasan 4-33) **and 170 for 2** (King 81*, Campbell 49, Hodge 31*) **beat Bangladesh 272** (Islam 105, Warrican 5-53) and 142 (Hasan 52, Chase 5-36, Warrican 4-63) **by eight wickets.**

MOTOGP

Marquez stretches championship lead after Martin forced to pull out

AFP
Sepang, Malaysia

Marc Marquez extended his lead in the MotoGP standings when he finished second in a thrilling Malaysian sprint race yesterday behind Pedro Acosta, with title rival Jorge Martin out injured.

Acosta crossed the finish line in 20min 04.098 sec, with fellow Spaniard Marquez 0.578sec behind in second for Ducati.

Italian Marco Bezzecchi mounted a late challenge to take third at Sepang.

Reigning world champion Marquez went 19 points clear of closest challenger Martin, who withdrew from the weekend action earlier in the day after failing to recover from a broken wrist.

The seven-time world champion Marquez survived an early scare when he almost collided with Ai Ogura on a sharp turn after the lights went green, as younger brother Alex Marquez retained the early lead from pole.

Alex Marquez crashed out on Lap 3 after he skidded off on a sweeping turn, allowing Japan's Ogura to become the new race leader.

Championship leader Marquez, who had started from second before falling back, moved into third behind Acosta.

A light drizzle swept across the Sepang circuit and the race changed momentum when Acosta overtook Ogura to become the third race leader on the seventh lap, before the Japanese was gobbled up by Marquez into second.

Marquez had to use his experience to fend off the challenge of Ogura as both men traded places, before the Spaniard accelerated past the Trackhouse rider on a tight corner to pursue Acosta right to the finish line.

Marquez said he did not enjoy the race, despite now being in a strong position in his title duel with Martin.

"I enjoyed zero. Today was real work, we did what we needed to do," he said.

"It's a circuit which some years I have struggled a lot, but we are saving well.

"Will be super concentrated for tomorrow."

Martin's premature exit from Sepang dealt a huge blow to the Spaniard's title hopes, with just three race weekends to go after this.

The Aprilia rider fears his chances of reclaiming the title he won in 2024 could be over.

"Maybe I can win it, but for me it's already a loss," said the Spaniard.

"So for sure I will fight till the end. Not only for me, because at the end of the day I'm already champion, but for my team, for my people, I will fight till the end."

The main race is today.



Second place Ducati Lenovo Team's Marc Marquez gestures on the podium of the sprint race of the Malaysian Grand Prix at the Sepang International Circuit yesterday. *(AFP)*

PREMIER LEAGUE

Brighton stun City, 10-man Man Utd beaten by Chelsea

BRIGHTON STAY THIRD ON 19 POINTS, SPURS SURGE CONTINUES

AFP
Manchester

Brighton inflicted a second straight Premier League defeat on Manchester City with a 1-0 win to close within two points of the leaders yesterday, while Manchester United slumped to another damaging defeat for Michael Carrick at Chelsea.

Third-placed Brighton ended their wait for a first away win against City at the 18th attempt to bolster dreams of challenging for the title.

The Seagulls have never won a major trophy but have already beaten champions Arsenal convincingly this season to show their title credentials.

Fabian Hurzeler's men got revenge for defeat to City on penalties in the League Cup on Wednesday.

Hurzeler felt aggrieved at that result after his side twice led at the Etihad. This time they held on after Yasin Ayari slotted them into an 11th-minute lead.

Bart Verbruggen was inspired in the Brighton goal to see off a City onslaught after half-time.

"We expected a game where we had to suffer. Coming to this place is very difficult, facing one of the best teams in the world," said Hurzeler.

"I'm really proud of how my players stuck together. They had a little bit of luck but, in the end, deserved it."

City won their opening seven league games as Enzo Maresca made a flawless start to the daunting task of succeeding Pep Guardiola.

However, the 10-time English champions know their results on the field may count for little this season unless they can successfully overturn a guilty verdict on over 100 charges of breaking Premier League financial rules.

City have appealed, but if that ruling is upheld they are likely to face a severe points penalty and possible relegation from the English top-flight.

"In this moment we are conceding silly goals that we can avoid," said Maresca.

"I think we did enough to deserve something but we need to move on and try to win games."

Defeat for City means Arsenal can go top of the table if they avoid losing at Liverpool on Sunday.



Brighton's Yasin Ayari celebrates scoring a goal against Manchester City during their Premier League match yesterday. *(Reuters)*

Manchester United's nine-game winless run is their longest without victory for 38 years after a 2-0 defeat at Chelsea.

The Red Devils were left to regret not taking advantage of a series of first half chances to take the lead before they imploded in the second period. Morgan Rogers was allowed to run straight through the heart of the United defence to open the scoring.

Lisandro Martinez then did his under-pressure manager no favours with two quickfire yellow cards, the second of which also conceded a penalty.

Cole Palmer converted from the spot to lift Chelsea into the top four.

"The two halves of football couldn't probably be further apart," said Carrick, who added he expects to be in charge for Tuesday's Champions League tie against Roma.

"We looked in a good place going into half-time and then found a way of unravelling it second half."

Crystal Palace may beat United to a managerial change after Pierre Sage's side were easily beaten 2-0 at Tottenham to remain in the relegation zone.

Jean-Philippe Mateta's early red card for a lunge on Micky van de Ven left the Eagles a mountain to climb.

In keeping with Sage's time in charge, it was Palace's inability to deal with set-pieces that saw Spurs claim a third consecutive win.

Archie Gray headed in unmarked from a corner before Jan Paul van Hecke bundled in the second after his initial attempt was brilliantly saved by Dean Henderson.

After a difficult start, a resurgent Tottenham are up to eighth.

Nottingham Forest's 2-0 defeat at Brentford ensured United did not drop into the bottom three.

Nikola Milenkovic's own goal and Igor Thiago's strike took the Bees up to sixth.

Bournemouth extended their fine form with a 2-0 win over Leeds thanks to goals from Evanilson and Amine Adli. Sunderland remain rooted to the foot of the table after a 3-1 loss at Coventry.

Hull and Ipswich played out a 2-2 draw.

ROMA THRASH UDINESE AHEAD OF MILAN DERBY

Roma blew away struggling Udinese with a rampant first-half display to claim a 5-2 away win and move one point off top in Serie A yesterday.
Gian Piero Gasperini's unbeaten side moved up to 24 points, one behind joint-leaders Inter Milan and Lazio, who are yet to play this weekend.
ryan Cristante, Rodrigo Mora, Donyell Malen and Evan Ndicka all struck before half-time and the woodwork twice denied the visitors in a dazzling show of attacking force.
Nicolo Zaniolo scored against his former club and Matteo Palma struck with a volley as Udinese improved after the break, but Daniele Ghilardi made it five in stoppage time to leave the hosts in 19th on five points after an eight-match winless run.
Earlier, Bologna claimed a third consecutive win to climb into eighth place as they came from behind to beat Monza 2-1.
League top scorer Gustavo Varela bagged his ninth goal of the season from the spot to put the visitors in front, but Tommaso Pobega and Federico Bernardeschi hit back before Bologna goalkeeper Lukasz Skorupski saved a late Patrick Cutrone penalty.

(AFP)

Atletico beat Levante to move top above Barcelona

Atletico Madrid earned a solid 2-0 win at Levante yesterday to move provisionally top of La Liga. Diego Simeone's side climbed a point clear of the Catalan giants, who suffered their first league defeat against rivals Real Madrid last weekend. Goals from Alejandro Grimaldo and Giuliano Simeone in Valencia helped Atletico record a seventh consecutive league win to continue their strong form and put pressure on the reigning champions.
"I'm very happy with the team's work," Atletico coach Simeone told Movistar. "We're very far from the end of the season... we'll keep going game by game." There was a minute's silence at the start of the match in memory of the 69 victims of the train crash in the province of Toledo that rocked Spain this week. Levante's Dani Requena forced Atletico goalkeeper Jan Oblak into an impressive early save. Morten Hjulmand thought he had put Atletico ahead after Alex Baena slipped him in, but a VAR review showed the Dane was offside. Baena, the visitors' main creative outlet, was involved in the opener. The Spaniard's pass was poorly defended by Levante and the ball bobbled through to Grimaldo, who lashed high into the net at the near post. Lee Kang-in hit the crossbar early in the second half as Atletico looked to put the game to bed. The coach's son Giuliano prodded home for Atletico's second goal after being played in by World Cup winner Baena. Oblak saved superbly from Karl Etta Eyong to stop the hosts fighting their way back into the game. It was Simeone's 344th La Liga win at the helm of Atletico, matching the club's record set by Luis Aragones. I don't feel it much as mine, but it belongs to my players, everyone who has been with me for so many years," said Simeone, who started coaching Atletico in 2011.

BUNDESLIGA

Bayern's Kane misses penalty, hits post as Dortmund snatch draw

Reuters
Munich

Ballon d'Or winner Harry Kane missed a penalty and hit the post for Bayern Munich as Borussia Dortmund snatched a last-gasp equaliser through Fabio Silva for a 2-2 draw in the Klassiker yesterday that kept the teams level on points at the top.

Kane, who won his prize in a ceremony in London on Monday, was an unused substitute in the 6-1 German Cup second-round demolition of Magdeburg on Wednesday before missing from the spot with Bayern 1-0 up. He also hit the post, one of four times Bayern hit the woodwork.

Silva snatched the equaliser in the 89th minute to leave both teams on 18 points, with Bayern top on goal difference.

In a rollercoaster first half Bayern hit the woodwork through Michael Olise and missed a golden chance for Ismael Saibari, who was injured in the process, before the visitors had a goal overruled by VAR.

Bayern, also hit by injuries to Serge Gnabry and Olise, struck in the 38th thanks through Konrad Laimer's goal on the rebound, after his first effort was blocked by Dortmund's Gregor Kobel. With Bayern coach Vincent Kompany recovering after his collapse last week, Bayern's full back Laimer was more threatening than Kane, who sent his 56th minute spot-kick against the crossbar.

Dortmund scored through Serhou Guirassy on the hour mark but their joy only lasted six minutes as Dayot Upamecano tapped in a Kane assist from close range.

Kane's low shot bounced off the post before Silva bagged the equaliser. Bayern's Lennart Karl still had time to see his shot in stoppage time bounce off the crossbar and cap a frustrating day for the champions.



Bayern Munich's Harry Kane reacts after he misses a chance to score from the penalty spot against Borussia Dortmund in Munich yesterday. *(Reuters)*

Alcaraz sees off Medvedev to reach Vienna Open final

Carlos Alcaraz beat Daniil Medvedev 6-4, 7-6 (7/2) in the semi-finals of the Vienna Open yesterday, progressing to the final where he will meet Alex de Minaur who beat new world number one Alexander Zverev in the other semi-final 6-4, 1-6, 7-6.
Victory for the seven-time Grand Slam winner extended his unbeaten run at ATP 500-level events this season to 15 matches. For the defeated Medvedev, it was nonetheless a fruitful week as his fifth consecutive run to at least the last four of a tournament secured the former world number one his spot in the season-ending ATP Finals next month.
Alcaraz edged in front in the fourth game of the first set as he broke the Russian, but Medvedev riposted in the very next game to get the opener back on serve.
And it stayed that way until a double-fault off the 30-year-old's racquet presented Alcaraz with two set points at 5-4, the first of which he duly converted.
Alcaraz looked to be on the brink of his fifth final of the year when Medvedev dumped a volley into the net, allowing the Spaniard to get 4-2 ahead.
Again the world number five refused to let his head drop, and hit straight back on the Spaniard's next service game with a break to love.
In the tie-break, both players initially struggled behind their own serve before Alcaraz won five consecutive points to seal his berth in today's showpiece match.

Fernandez sets up Tokyo final against Russia's Shnaider

Leylah Fernandez hailed her "mental fortitude" after setting up a Pan Pacific Open title clash against Russia's Diana Shnaider yesterday.
The world number 23 from Canada defeated Uzbekistan's Kamilla Rakhimova 7-5, 6-3 in Tokyo to reach a second final in a row. Fernandez won her first title of the season in Singapore in September and followed that up by reaching the decider last week in Ningbo, where she lost to world number one Elena Rybakina. Fernandez will face 13th-ranked Shnaider after she beat Slovakian 18-year-old Mia Pohankova 6-4, 7-6 (9/7) in the other semi-final.
Fernandez reached the semi-finals when Rybakina withdrew from their match with a neck injury, a day after securing the year-end world number one ranking. Rybakina is one of several players who pulled out in Tokyo, which comes near the end of the tennis season.
Shnaider is looking for her first title of the year after battling past former junior Wimbledon champion Pohankova.

EQUESTRIAN

Unstoppable Cherif wins Diamond Tour at Hathab

By Sports Reporter
Doha

Cyrine Cherif won the Diamond Tour as the fourth leg of the 10th edition of the Longines Hathab Qatar Equestrian Tour concluded yesterday at the Qatar Equestrian Federation's indoor arena.

Cherif topped the 150cm event in 26.16 seconds aboard Triple T Calamando. Hamad Nasser al-Qadi finished second in 25.74 seconds on Noble, while Abdulaziz Fahad al-Eid took third place in 43.87 seconds aboard Real Star.

Saeed Hamad al-Rashdi, Deputy Tournament Director, presented the awards to the Diamond Tour podium winners.

In the 120cm Bronze Tour individual competition, Saeed Hamad Juma claimed first place in 51.07 seconds aboard Duros. Yousef Asamalli finished second in 55.89 seconds on Luna, while Abdullah Ahmed al-Musaifri took third place in 57.39 seconds aboard Dulci.

Doha Stars won the team competition with a combined time of 111.23 seconds, followed by Al Shaqab (103.33 seconds) and Ajwad (126.05 seconds).

Salman Faisal al-Marri won the Future Riders class over 90cm in 14.43 seconds aboard Goteborg. Al-Qaqa bin Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani finished second in 14.66 seconds on Early Star, while Saud Abdullah al-Mohannadi took third place in 15.17 seconds aboard Beyonce.

In the dressage competitions, Jodie Leader won the Preliminary test with 73.572 points, while Michelle Grimes topped the Introductory level with 72.375 points. Jassim Al-Jaham al-Kuwari claimed the Gold Round with 72.834 points, while Triple A won the team competition with 141.709 points.



Cyrine Cherif poses on the podium after winning the Diamond Tour, ahead of Hamad Nasser al-Qadi and Abdulaziz Fahad al-Eid.

MOTORSPORT

Al-Attiyah wins Qatar Baja to clinch Middle East titles

Dabrowski earns record fourth bike win in Qatar; al-Bastaki finishes on top in the quads category

By Sports Reporter
Lusail

Qatar's Nasser Saleh al-Attiyah and his French navigator Max Delfino confirmed their respective FIA Middle East Baja Cup titles with outright victory in the Qatar International Baja across the southern deserts yesterday.

Al-Attiyah headed into the final day aiming to defend a lead of 6min 15.3sec over the FIA World Baja Cup title-chasing Francisco Barreto and his navigator Paulo Fiuza. The Optimus MD Rallye driver made a strong start and increased his virtual lead through the first checkpoints.

There was no bad luck lurking for al-Attiyah as he duly secured a record 13th victory on his home off-road event since 2004 and a first since 2023 with a winning margin of 29min 08.7sec. He also confirmed the regional Baja title for the first time. Barreto lost over 18 minutes on the final section with navigational delays but stayed in second place.

Al-Attiyah said: "A lucky number for today, 13. This year it was completely different. We had the longest stages on a Baja. It looked like a Dakar cross-country stage yesterday and we had 200km today over completely different terrain. We had to manage the rear tyres today, so as not to destroy them, like yesterday. We did a good job and we won the race. Two Middle East championships this year. It's the first time I compete in this Baja Cup. Before, I competed in the World Cup. Now, Dubai next week and we just received information that we have Jeddah the week after because I am also leading the Saudi Championship. Then, we have Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge at the end of this month."

Konrad Dabrowski wrote a little piece of motorcycling history by becoming the first rider to win the event on four occasions (2022, 2023, 2025 and 2026). He surpassed the three cross-country victories achieved by Spain's Marc Coma in 2012, 2013 and 2015. The Pole led from the Prologue and earned a winning margin of 5min 12sec. Emirati Khalifa al-Bastaki was victorious in the quad category on his Yamaha.

Dabrowski said: "I knew what I had to do. The plan was simple, not to get lost. I wanted to lead the way until the dunes. That way I knew the navigation game was done right. Alex (McInnes) and Romain (Dumontier) caught me and I just rode with them. That way I was safe. It was a good day, four in a row, and still undefeated in Qatar. Dunes were nice. They are demanding and the camel grass is physically tough and it was hot. We could feel that but I enjoyed myself."

Barreto's consolation for finishing a distant second in the car category was the outright lead in the FIA World Baja Cup to take to the final round in the UAE next weekend. The SVR Toyota Hilux IMT Evo driver delivered a polished performance to finish 9min 28.8sec in front of the third-placed Challenger category-winning Abdulaziz al-Kuwari and Oriol Mena in their QMMF-backed Can-Am Challenger.

A strong run on the last day catapulted Khalifa Saleh al-Attiyah and Stephane Duple into fourth overall in the second of the QMMF Challenger cars. The French father and daughter pairing of Lionel and Lucie Baud stayed clear of major issues and set the fourth quickest time on the second stage in their petrol-engined X-Raid Mini JCW Rally to earn fifth.



Qatar International Baja winners Nasser Saleh al-Attiyah and French navigator Max Delfino pose with Qatar Motor and Motorcycle Federation President Abdulrahman al-Mannai, Executive Director Amro al-Hamad and board member Abdulrazaq al-Kuwari in Lusail yesterday.


Spectators look on as Nasser Saleh al-Attiyah in action with co-driver Max Delfino during the Qatar International Baja in an Optimus MD Rallye.


Poland's Konrad Dabrowski became the first motorcycle rider to win the Qatar International Baja on four occasions (2022, 2023, 2025 and 2026).

Aliyyah Koloc's good run on Friday had been overshadowed by time penalties and the UAE-based Red-Lined Revo GTR driver to succumbed to technical issues on the second stage. Her father Martin and his navigator Hugo Magalhaes finished sixth.

Ahmed El-Shamy remains on course to finish as runner-up to al-Attiyah in the Middle East Baja Cup's Ultimate class and he came home in seventh with Leonard Cremer in a Century CR6.

Newly-crowned Stock world champion Majed al-Thunayyan celebrated his success but Qatar's Abdulla al-Rabban won the section for series-production cross-country machines in a Nissan Patrol for the third successive year.

Duust Rally Team rider Dabrowski opened the day's proceedings hoping to defend a 5min 18sec advantage over McInnes. The stage began to the south-west of Doha, but a mistake navigational mistake by McInnes swung the pendulum in the Pole's favour early on. The Briton dropped 4min 47sec to the leader and rode alongside Romain Dumontier to the refuelling point with Ethan Lane running strongly.

Rafic Eid's Baja ended when he sustained a hand injury after a fall. Talaga and Thomas Cross both stopped.

Dumontier held on through the final passage in the Sealine dunes to win the stage by 1min 58sec from side kick McInnes. But the third quickest time for Dabrowski enabled the Pole to win the Baja for the fourth time. McInnes boosted his FIM Bajas World title hopes with second and Dumontier rounded off the podium places in third.

Emirati Khalifa al-Bastaki managed to hold on to his overnight lead to snatch victory in the quad section over fellow countryman Abdulaziz Ahli. Ahmed al-Jaber had arrived in Qatar as the FIM quad championship leader but failed to start the final stage. Hani al-Noumesi stopped to attend to an injured rider and was later handed time back to round off the quad podium ahead of Abdulaziz al-Atawi

All three FIA and FIM championships continue in the UAE next weekend at the Dubai International Baja.

FINAL POSITIONS

Cars: 1. Nasser Saleh al-Attiyah (QAT)/ Max Delfino (FRA) Optimus MD Rallye; 5hr 12min 54.1sec+; 2. Francisco Barreto (POR)/ Paulo Fiuza (POR) Toyota Hilux IMT Evo; 5hr 42min 02.8sec*; 3. Abdulaziz al-Kuwari (QAT)/Oriol Mena (ESP) Can-Am Maverick R; 5hr 51min 31.6sec*; 4. Khalifa Saleh al-Attiyah (QAT)/Stephane Duple (FRA) Taurus T3 Max; 5hr 58min 59.1sec+; 5. Lionel Baud (FRA)/Lucie Baud (FRA) X-Raid Mini JCW 3.0d; 6hr 00min 37.8sec*

Motorcycles: 1. Konrad Dabrowski (POL) KTM 450 Rally Replica; 6hr 22min 05sec; 2. Alex McInnes (GBR) KTM 450 RFR; 6hr 27min 17sec; 3. Romain Dumontier (FRA) KTM 450 Rally Factory; 6hr 33min 37sec; 4. Ethan Lane (GBR) KTM 450 Rally; 6hr 52min 27sec; 5. Toni Mulec (SLO) KTM 450 Rally Replica; 7hr 14min 00sec

Quads: 1. Khalifa al-Bastaki (UAE) Yamaha YFZ 450R; 7hr 52min 06sec; 2. Abdulaziz Ahli (UAE) Yamaha Raptor 700; 8hr 36min 53sec; 3. Hani al-Noumesi (KSA) Yamaha 700; 9hr 10min 47sec; 4. Abdulaziz al-Atawi (KSA) Yamaha Raptor 700; 10hr 27min 57sec

QATAR STARS LEAGUE

Rayyan held as Sadd stay top in three-way title race



At Al Thumama Stadium, Al Rayyan and Al Arabi shared the points despite several chances at both ends.

By Sports Reporter
Doha

Al Rayyan missed the chance to move clear at the top of the Qatar Stars League after being held to a goalless draw by Al Arabi yesterday, leaving them level on 18 points with leaders Al Sadd and third-placed Al Duhail after the eighth round.

Rayyan, who started the day level with Sadd, remained second on goal difference (+13), behind the leaders (+17). Duhail are third also with 18 points and a goal difference of +11 after beating Al Wakrah 3-1 yesterday. Al Arabi sit fourth on 13 points, while Lusail climbed to seventh with nine points following a late 2-1 win over bottom side Al Sailiya.

At Al Thumama Stadium, Al Rayyan and Al Arabi shared the points despite several chances at both ends. Al Arabi started brightly and threatened through Pablo Sarabia, whose effort was saved by Rayyan goalkeeper Mahmoud Abu Nada in the 11th minute.

Rayyan responded through Ahmed Alaa, who beat his marker before unleashing a powerful shot that Al Arabi goalkeeper Jassim al-Hail kept out in the 22nd minute. Al Arabi continued to press, with Ahmed Fathi seeing his effort saved in the 31st minute.

Sarabia tested Abu Nada again in the 42nd minute before Roger Guedes wasted a golden opportunity a minute later, delaying his shot when through on goal.

Al Arabi maintained their attacking pressure after the break and came close to breaking the deadlock in the 69th minute when Fathi's powerful effort was turned behind for a corner.


Lusail's Rodrigo Moreno celebrates after scoring the winner in stoppage time against Al Sailiya at Suhaim bin Hamad Stadium in Doha yesterday.

At Abdullah Bin Khalifa Stadium, Al Duhail produced a strong finish to beat Al Wakrah and maintain their challenge at the top of the table.

Polish striker Krzysztof Piatek put Duhail ahead in the 14th minute before Amin Zahzouh equalised for Wakrah. Duhail regained the lead through Sultan al-Buraik in the 85th minute, and Omar Sekou made sure of the three points with a third goal two minutes later.

Lusail also left it late to secure a 2-1 victory over Al Sailiya at Suhaim bin Hamad Stadium, with Rodrigo Moreno scoring the decisive goal in stoppage time. Sailiya took an early lead through Andre Siaputra, who struck from outside the penalty area. Lusail responded through Khaled Mohammed Saleh before half-time to leave the teams level at the break.

Both sides created opportunities after the interval, with Sailiya pushing for a second goal, but Lusail found the decisive breakthrough in added time through Moreno.