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# GULF TIMES SPORT



TENNIS

Australia and US ease though in Davis Cup qualifiers, Japan edge out Britain

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QSTK/QTCC

# Al-Qubaisi, al-Khelaifi reign supreme at Lusail Circuit

Organised by the QMMF and LIC, the championships provided a platform for 48 talented competitors

By Sports Reporter  
Doha

Abdulla al-Qubaisi and Abdulla al-Khelaifi emerged champions of Qatar Superstock 600 (QTSK 600) and Qatar Touring Car Championship (QTCC), respectively, after the fifth and final round of the championship was held at the Lusail International Circuit (LIC) yesterday.

Al-Qubaisi topped the QTSK 600 leaderboard with 236 points, ahead of Masha al-Naimi (197 points) and Saeed al-Sulaiti (165 points). Meanwhile, al-Khelaifi maintained his dominance in the QTCC as the seasoned driver finished with 107 points, followed by Ali Emadadhi (78 points) and Ahmed al-Asiri (72 points).

The QTSK 600 Trophy Championship was won by Alexian Macary with a total of 190 points, followed by Alexander Qabazard and Emmanuel Geoffrey with 167 and 136 points respectively.

Organised by the Qatar Motor & Motorcycle Federation (QMMF) and LIC, the championships provided a platform for 48 talented competitors to display their racing prowess on Qatar's premier circuit.

Adding to the excitement, LIC also hosted the opening round of the 2025 Toyota GR Yaris Qatar Cup, organised by Al Abdulghani Motors on Thursday and Friday. Ten elite drivers from Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Italy, India, and Jordan battled in high-performance GR Yaris vehicles, showcasing their skill, strategy, and endurance in thrilling races.

In yesterday's QTSK 600 Race 1, rider Ferrandez Beneite emerged the winner as he set the pace at 24 minutes 48.877 seconds, with al-Naimi and al-Sulaiti completing the podium at 24 minutes 57.021 seconds and 25 minutes 10.200 seconds.

Race 2 saw David Rodriguez take the checkered flag at 24 minutes 41.998 seconds, followed by al-Qubaisi and al-Naimi with times of 24 minutes 49.965 seconds and 25 minutes 04.708 seconds.

The QSSP 300 championship delivered



QTCC champion Abdulla al-Khelaifi poses with runner-up Ali Emadadhi and third-placed Ahmed al-Asiri on the podium at the Lusail International Circuit yesterday. QMMF's Executive Director Amro al-Hamad and QMMF senior committee member Abdulrazaq al-Kuwari presented the trophies to the winners.

thrilling performances, with rider Johann Emmanuel claiming Race 1 honours at 18 minutes 59.703 seconds. Marton Bellelli secured second place at 19 minutes 01.069 seconds, while Johann Zahren completed the podium at 19 minutes 02.866 seconds.

Race 2 saw Johann Emmanuel triumph with 18 minutes 41.344 seconds, followed by Saidatul Zakirah at 19 minutes 05.232 seconds and Bellelli at 19 minutes 06.323 seconds. Bellelli won the championship with 195 points, with Mahmoud Elbanna in second place with 170 points, while Johann Zahren was third with 107 points.

In the Race 1 of QTCC, al-Khelaifi secured victory with 51 minutes 46.749 seconds, followed by Ahmed Alabasi and Emadadhi posting times of 51 minutes 49.462 seconds and 51 minutes 49.980 seconds. Race 2 witnessed Ghanim al-Madheed capture first place at 26 min-



Action from the fifth and final round of the Qatar Superstock 600 yesterday.



QTSK 600 champion Abdulla al-Qubaisi, runner-up Masha al-Naimi and third-placed Saeed al-Sulaiti pose on the podium with their trophies.

utes 08.371 seconds, with al-Khelaifi and Ahmed al-Emadi completing the podium at 26 minutes 09.666 seconds and 26 minutes 11.069 seconds respectively. The QTSK/QTCC return in April 2025, with the first round of the season set to take place on April 25-26.

On Friday, the Yaris Cup drivers delivered an intense competition across two thrilling races. Faisal al-Yafei claimed victory with a total time of 16 minutes and 55.814 seconds in Race 1 and 19 minutes and 16.964 seconds in Race 2. Saadon al-Kuwari followed closely, finishing at 16 minutes and 58.602 seconds in Race 1 and 19 minutes and 23.206 seconds in Race 2, while Izz Bustami secured third place with times of 16 minutes and 59.202 seconds and 19 minutes and 25.124 seconds, respectively. Their impressive performances put them at the top of the standings.

PREMIER LEAGUE

# Salah helps Liverpool go nine clear, Forest thrash Brighton

By Sports Reporter  
London

Liverpool's Mohamed Salah scored twice in a 2-0 win at Bournemouth that put them nine points clear atop the Premier League while Nottingham Forest's Chris Wood went one better with a hat-trick in a 7-0 rout of Brighton & Hove Albion yesterday.

Newcastle United missed the chance to move fourth though as they surrendered the lead in a 2-1 home defeat by Fulham. Bottom club Southampton enjoyed some rare joy as they beat Ipswich Town 2-1 away for only their second league win of what has been a thoroughly gloomy campaign.

Liverpool under Arne Slot have quickly acquired the habit of winning even when not completely at their fluent best and in Salah they have a weapon of lethal efficiency. The Egyptian converted a penalty on the half-hour and then curled home his second goal in the 75th minute to secure the points and end Bournemouth's 11-match unbeaten league run.

Salah now has 21 Premier League goals this season and 178 in his career, taking him sixth on the all-time list ahead of Chelsea great Frank Lampard. Liverpool have 56 points from 23 games with Arsenal, who host fourth-placed Manchester City today, and Forest level on 47 points, though the Midlands side have played a game more.

"It's a great result that we have here away from home," Liverpool skipper Virgil van Dijk said. "We showed great desire, mentality and great quality to finish the



Liverpool's Mohamed Salah scores against Bournemouth during their Premier League match at the Vitality Stadium in Bournemouth, Britain. (Reuters)

situations that we created. Bournemouth are really intense. If you look to the data, they are top of the table for running, intensity - the way they play, they're aggressive."

Forest's 5-0 loss to Bournemouth last weekend had some people suggesting their bubble may have burst. But Nuno Espirito Santo's team put that notion to bed in devastating fashion. Wood's hat-

trick and goals from Morgan Gibbs-White, Neco Williams and Jota Silva plus an own goal helped Forest consolidate third spot as they chase what would be their first Champions League qualification in 45 years. "The response on the pitch from the players was beyond our expectations," a smiling Espirito Santo said after Forest recorded the biggest winning margin this season.

Fulham substitute Rodrigo Muniz struck in the 82nd minute to secure a 2-1 win at Newcastle who had taken the lead when Jacob Murphy slammed home a shot after good work by Anthony Gordon.

Fulham levelled after the break when Murphy deflected in a shot by Raul Jimenez. In-form Newcastle striker Alexander Isak struck the crossbar before Muniz stole it for Fulham.

Ipswich must have felt a home game against hapless Southampton would be the ideal opportunity to escape the relegation zone but they fluffed their lines. Saints struck first as Joe Aribo's shot squirmed through goalkeeper Arijanet Muric and into the net but Ipswich levelled through top scorer Liam Delap on the half hour.

Paul Onuachu struck late on though to give Southampton a glimmer of hope in what looks like a forlorn escape act. They stay bottom with nine points, seven behind second-bottom Ipswich and eight behind Leicester City whose win at Tottenham Hotspur last week was quickly forgotten as they were thumped 4-0 at Everton whose form under returning boss David Moyes goes from strength to strength.

Everton's Abdoulaye Doucoure scored the fastest goal of the Premier League season and fourth-fastest in the compe-

tion's history as he latched onto a long ball from keeper Jordan Pickford to score in 10.18 seconds. Beto netted twice before halftime and Iliman Ndiaye added a fourth in the 90th minute as Everton moved up to 15th with 26 points.

Wolverhampton Wanderers moved above Leicester into the safety zone with a 2-0 victory at home to Aston Villa.

Jean-Ricner Bellegarde scored the opener in the 12th minute, lighting up Molineux with an angled shot rifled in at the near post after Pablo Sarabia played the ball through. Matheus Cunha made it 2-0 deep into second-half stoppage time with his 11th league goal of the season.



Nottingham Forest's Chris Wood celebrates after completing his hat-trick against Brighton. (AFP)



CRICKET

# Sri Lanka crash to worst Test defeat in Australia thrashing

'THE BATTERS SHOULD HAVE PUT UP A BETTER SHOW'



Australia's Matthew Kuhnemann (Centre) celebrates with teammates after taking the wicket of Sri Lanka's Jeffrey Vandersay during the fourth day of the first Test at the Galle International Cricket Stadium in Galle yesterday. (AFP)

AFP  
Galle, Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka suffered their heaviest defeat in Test cricket history yesterday as Australia flexed their muscles to take a 1-0 lead in the two-match series with a crushing victory by an innings and 242 runs.

The contest was wrapped up before tea on day four, with rookie left-arm spinner Matthew Kuhnemann's match-winning spell delivering him career-best figures of 9-149 over both innings.

"We were put under pressure," Sri Lanka skipper Dhananjaya de Silva said afterwards. "The batters should have put up a better show."

Kuhnemann underwent surgery only two weeks ago on a broken right thumb sustained during the Big Bash League and battled

through the match in pain, requiring constant medical attention.

He was well-supported by the ever-dependable Nathan Lyon, who spun a web around the Sri Lankan batters to finish with seven match wickets.

Sri Lanka's heaviest defeat before Saturday was in Nagpur in 2017, when India hammered them by an innings and 239. Sri Lanka resumed on 136 for five overnight but their first innings folded for 165, losing their last five wickets for a mere nine runs.

Put straight back in to bat chasing 489, they lost three wickets before lunch and then capitulated in the second session - a humiliating finish for a team once renowned for its prowess on turning tracks.

Dinesh Chandimal had waged a lonely battle in the first innings to top-score with 72 and, with Ange-

lo Mathews, stitched together one of only two 50-plus partnerships in the second.

However, he was sent back for 31 on the last ball before lunch when he gloved Lyon to Travis Head at short leg.

Oshada Fernando failed to make an impact in his return to the side, undone by a sharp inswinger from Mitchell Starc that trapped him plumb in front for six to go with his first innings seven.

Former skipper Dimuth Karunaratne's horror run with the bat continued after an avoidable dismissal for nought by Todd Murphy. Rain forced an early lunch on day three before washing out the final two sessions.

Australia declared on 654-6 late on the second day after opener Usman Khawaja's career-best 232.

"Galle is a tough place to play cricket and we are very happy

with this win," Khawaja said. "I've played a lot of cricket in Sri Lanka, this being my fifth tour. I've made lot of mistakes before. I guess all that experience came in handy in this game."

Stand-in skipper Steve Smith also had a game to remember, becoming only the fourth Australian to breach the 10,000-run mark in Test cricket on the first ball he faced.

He finished his innings with a masterful 141, while wicketkeeper Josh Inglis hit a century on debut.

Galle will host the second and final match of the series next week before a two-match ODI series in Colombo.

**BRIEF SCORES: Australia 654 for 6 dec beat Sri Lanka 165 and 247 (Vandersay 53\*, Mathews 41, Lyon 4-78, Kuhnemann 4-86) by an innings and 242 runs.**

SPOTLIGHT

## New Zealander Wollaston wins Cadel Evans Road Race

AFP  
Geelong, Australia

New Zealand's Ally Wollaston powered home ahead of the Netherlands' Karlijn Swinkels in a bunched sprint finish to claim her first World Tour victory in the women's Cadel Evans Road Race yesterday.

FDJ-Suez's Wollaston, a double-medallist at the Paris Olympics, sat at the back of the peloton for much of the race then timed her move perfectly in the final dash to cross the line in 3hrs 59.43mins. She came home just ahead of Swinkels (UAE Team ADQ) and Switzerland's Noemi Ruegg (EF Education-Oatly), who won last month's Tour Down Under which opened the World Tour season.

New Zealander Niamh Fisher-Black (Lidl-Trek) took Queen of the Mountain honours.

"I knew that what I had to do is conserve all day. I was really lucky that my teammates were strong enough to follow all the moves," said Wollaston, the reigning omnium track world champion.

"So proud of the girls (teammates) that just went all in for me in the final and yeah, just so happy to take the win today."

"This is actually my first one-day World Tour win," added Wollaston, who won team pursuit silver and omnium bronze at last year's Olympics.

"I'm so proud to win, and I knew the last two weeks I felt super strong, and today I'm just so happy that it all came together."



New Zealand's Ally Wollaston celebrates with her trophy after winning the women's elite cycling event of the 2025 Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Race in Geelong yesterday. (AFP)

A field of 82 riders from 14 teams lined up to take on the 142 kilometre (88 mile) course, which began and ended in Geelong and took in the southern coastline of Australia's Victoria state.

A series of crashes punctuated the second half of the race, with Australian Alyssa Polites and Dutch rider Daniek Hengeveld among those unable to finish.

While largely flat, there were two late steep ascents of Chalcabra Crescent, with the second splitting the peloton to a leading pack of 14 which then made a charge for the line.

The one-day Cadel Evans Road Race is named after Australia's four-time Olympic cyclist and 2011 Tour de France winner, with the men's showdown today.

### Carbon monoxide gadget banned from cycling

**LIÉVIN, FRANCE:** A ban on a controversial carbon monoxide breathing method used by some top riders including Tour de France champion Tadej Pogacar is to be banned this month, the sport's governing body said yesterday. "It will be banned as of February 10 in order to protect the health of our athletes," the International Cycling Union announced. The method is thought to boost red blood cells and endurance. The initiative marks a further step by cycling chiefs to outlaw the technique after asking the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) at the end of November to "take a position" on the matter. "Carbon monoxide is a toxic, odourless gas that is often a cause of household accidents,"

the UCI observed in a statement in December. "Inhaled in low doses and under strict safety conditions, the gas is used in medicine as a tracer to measure the pulmonary diffusion of oxygen or of the total haemoglobin mass. "However, when inhaled repeatedly in non-medical conditions, it can cause side effects such as headaches, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, chest pain, breathing difficulties, and even loss of consciousness." The use of the potentially lethal gas by at least three teams was revealed last summer during the Tour de France by the specialist cycling website Escape Collective. Among these teams are Israel PT, Pogacar's UAE Team and Jonas Vingegaard's Visma. (AFP)

CYCLING

## Pidcock emerges Al-Ula Tour winner

AFP  
AlUla, Saudi Arabia

Double Olympic mountain bike champion Tom Pidcock won Saudi Arabia's Al-Ula Tour yesterday in his first race since joining the Q36.5 team.

Pidcock quit Ineos in the close season in an eyebrow-raising switch to the ambitious but second tier outfit and the Yorkshireman and the Swiss team have both reaped instant benefits.

"I did it at junior level but never at elite," said the 25-year-old after the five-day race, describing it as a career breakthrough.

"We won as a team. I know it's only a five day race but we didn't even know each other until December," said the sprightly Pidcock who was disaffected in his time with British outfit Ineos despite winning a Tour de France

stage at the iconic Alpe d'Huez. The diminutive all-rounder wore traditional Saudi men's headgear known as keffiyeh on the podium after camel racers had accompanied part of the bike race that started and ended at a camel racing centre.

Pidcock took the lead on stage two attacking on a steep slope and easing away from his rivals. He won again on stage four to extend that lead and was little troubled defending his jersey on the final flat run. Pidcock also won the Strade Bianche and Amstel Gold one-day classics in 2023 and 2024 and defended his mountain bike Olympic gold at the Paris Games in July.

The fifth stage itself was also won by a Q36.5 rider as the Italian Matteo Moschetti outsprinted Dutch speedster Dylan Groenewegen. Moschetti was knocked down by a truck in Milan last year and helicoptered to hospital with fractures to his spine.



Team Q36.5 Pro Cycling Team British rider Tom Pidcock celebrates with his trophy on the podium after winning the overall Al-Ula Tour yesterday. (AFP)

FOCUS

## Australia crush England in one-off women's Test for Ashes whitewash

AFP  
Melbourne

Australia crushed a lamentable England by an innings and 122 runs in a one-off pink ball Test yesterday to complete a historic women's Ashes whitewash.

In the first women's Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground since 1949, the hosts wrapped up victory within three days to culminate a horror tour by the visitors.

Australia were in a class of their own all series, reinforcing the chasm between the two sides.

They won all three ODIs, three T20s and the sole Test that comprised the multi-format Ashes, which has been points-based since 2013 - two for a white-ball win and four for a Test.

It was the first time either side has scored a whitewash, ensuring the Ashes stay firmly in the hands of Australia, which regained them on English soil in 2015 and has retained a tight grip ever since. "It's amazing. I couldn't be more proud of the group that's standing there," said Australia skipper Alyssa Healy.

"I think at every opportunity, when we thought England maybe were clawing their way back, somebody came out and shut the door on them. So I think full credit to the group of people standing there."



Australia players pose with the trophy after defeating England on the third day of the Women's Ashes Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in Melbourne yesterday. (AFP)

England arrived in high spirits after winning six of seven matches on their all-format tour of South Africa last month.

But they were methodically worn down by an Australian side with far greater strength in depth. After being dismissed for 170 in their first innings, England dropped eight catches and missed a stumping on a shambol-

ic day two. It allowed the hosts to compile 440 on the back of Anabel Sutherland's majestic 163 and Beth Mooney's gritty 106.

Australia then bowled England out for 148 in the final session of day three to complete the rout in a game celebrating the 90th anniversary of the first women's Test, played between Australia and England in Brisbane in 1934.

Australian spinner Alana King, who took 5-53, was named player of the series.

**BRIEF SCORES: Australia 440 (Sutherland 163, Mooney 106, Ecclestone 5-143) beat England 170 (Sciver-Brunt 51, King 4-45) & 148 (Beaumont 47, King 5-53, Gardner 4-39) by an innings and 122 runs.**



MOTORSPORT

# Arabian Drag Racing League 4th round sees new champs

Event witnessed strong participation from champions across the region, both in car and motorcycle categories

By Sports Reporter  
Doha

New names made a strong mark in the world of speed racing at the Qatar Racing Club (QRC) as the fourth round of the Arabian Drag Racing League (ADRL) concluded.

The event, held under the patronage of QRC Chairman HE Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad al-Thani witnessed strong participation from champions of the sport across the region, both in car and motorcycle racing categories.

The championship crowned nine new champions on the podium bringing the total number of racers with at least one title to 42 across various categories by the end of the fourth round, which saw over 200 participants. This has added to the excitement of the competition for the overall category titles, with only two rounds left before the conclusion of this year's championship edition.

The five car index categories saw new names reaching the highest steps of the podium. In the quarter-mile category, Ahmed al-Yaqoub claimed his first title in the 9.00 Index class, defeating Salman Rajab in the final while Ahmed Sarhan won the 8.50 Index title after overcoming Abdul Aziz al-Suwailem in the final, with both racers making their first appearance on the podium in the championship.

The remaining index categories, which compete over an eighth-mile distance, saw Khalid al-Kandari take the 4.80 Index title



QRC Director General Sheikh Jabor bin Khalid al-Thani poses with the winners of the fourth round of the Arabian Drag Racing League.

after defeating the winner of the first and third rounds Rashid al-Bulooshi, who settled for second place this round.

It's worth noting that al-Kandari made his first appearance in the championship after missing the previous three rounds. The 4.50 Index title went to Ibrahim Abbas Ibrahim, who secured his first championship by winning the final against Fawaz Ibrahim Ahmed Ali.

In the 4.00 Index category, the winner of the past two rounds, Badr Khoureshid, reached the final, where he faced Rashid al-Bulooshi, who claimed his first title after finishing third in the previous two rounds.

The Super Street Outlaw category followed a similar path to the index categories, with Moham-



Action from the fourth round of the Arabian Drag Racing League.

med al-Mutairi winning his first championship title by defeating racer Jaber Salman in the final. Meanwhile, bikes racing saw a

second consecutive win for Mishal al-Sabr in its toughest category, the Pro Bike class. He triumphed in the final

against Ahmed al-Nekhilan. Similarly, the 8.50 Index category for bikes followed in the footsteps of the Pro Bike class, with

Abdul Wahab Bou Qmaz securing his second title after his victory in round two. Ali Bahram Hussein claimed second place, and Abdulrahman al-Najim took third.

Mohammed Bou Rashid won his first championship title in the Street Bike category, where he faced Mousa al-Bulooshi in a rematch of the previous round's final. Bou Rashid managed to avenge his earlier defeat and claimed the title, leaving al-Bulooshi in second place.

Additionally, Mishari al-Turki secured his first title in the Super Street Bike class after defeating his competitor Yaqout al-Awad in the final.

In the Super Street Pro category, racer Youssef al-Ali secured his second consecutive victory, this time defeating Abdul Wahab Saleem, who marked his first podium appearance in the championship by finishing second.

In the Pro NA category, Ali Abbas Ibrahim claimed his second title, following his victory in the second round. The second-place spot went to last round's champion, Syed Hussein al-Haddad, who made his fourth podium appearance this season.

As for the final category, the 6-Cylinder Import, the race was postponed to the next round due to the track's unpreparedness. The final will now feature Youssef al-Zayani and Faisal al-Arab.

QRC Director General Sheikh Jabor bin Khalid al-Thani awarded the top three winners in each category. The fifth and penultimate round of the league is scheduled February 4-7.

## Qatar Rugby and Hockey Committee and Saudi Arabian Rugby Federation sign co-operation agreement



The Qatar Rugby and Hockey Committee (QRHC) signed a co-operation agreement with the Saudi Arabian Rugby Federation at the Qatar Olympic Committee headquarters yesterday. The agreement aims to strengthen collaboration between the two organisations in areas such as management, training, refereeing, and knowledge exchange. The agreement was signed by Youssef Jeham al-Kuwari, QRHC President and his Saudi counterpart Ali al-Dajani. The partnership focuses on joint initiatives, including training camps, programmes, and activities to advance rugby development in both countries. Al-Kuwari emphasised that the agreement aims to foster strong ties between the two federations, share administrative and technical expertise, and organise training courses and camps. He also highlighted its role in enhancing sports medicine for rugby, benefiting national teams across all age groups.

## TENNIS

# Australia and US ease through in Davis Cup qualifiers, Japan edge out Britain

Reuters  
London

Davis Cup heavyweights Australia and the United States eased through the first qualifying round yesterday but Britain were knocked out as Japan hit back from 2-1 down to win 3-2.

Australia, whose 28 Davis Cup titles is only bettered by the 32 of the US, proved far too strong for Sweden as doubles pair Matthew Ebden and John Peers beat Filip Bergevi and Andre Goransson 6-7(7) 6-3 6-2 to seal the tie.

Singles wins for Alex de Minaur and Aleksandar Vukic had put Australia in control of the tie.

The U.S. were 2-0 up against Taiwan after Friday's singles in Taipei City and sealed the tie when Olympic silver medalists Austin Krajicek and Rajeev Ram beat Ray Ho and Wu Tung-lin 6-4 7-6(4) to set up their first home tie in three years.

Mackenzie McDonald then beat Huang Tsung-hao 6-2 6-3 as the Americans' experience shone through and they won 4-0 without dropping serve even once in the tie.

"Fortunately we were able to finish the job in the first match. We took care of our serve really



Australia's team (from left) Matthew Ebden, Thanasi Kokkinakis, Aleksandar Vukic, John Peers, Alex De Minaur and captain Lleyton Hewitt pose for a picture after the Davis Cup match against Sweden at the Royal Tennis Hall in Stockholm yesterday. (AFP)

well," Krajicek said. The U.S. will play the Czech Republic in the second round in September after the European side beat South Korea in the doubles rubber to take a 3-0 lead.

Japan and Britain were tied 1-1 after Friday's play but the visitors edged ahead as Joe Salisbury and Neal Skupski beat Japanese duo Yosuke Watanuki and Takeru Yuzuki 7-6(4) 7-6(3) in the doubles to move within one victory of the

next round. But Yoshihito Nishio levelled the score with a 6-3 7-6(0) win over Jacob Fearnley before Kei Nishikori, a former world number four, got the better of Billy Harris with a 6-2 6-3 win.

Nishikori had lost to Fearnley in straight sets on Friday but this time the former US Open finalist wrapped up the tie in 73 minutes for the 300th hardcourt win of his career as Japan beat Britain for the first time.

"I had a bad day yesterday. I tried to be more solid and aggressive and stay calm today," said the 35-year-old Nishikori, who was part of the team that lost to Britain in 2016.

"Very happy that the team won. This win will give us confidence. Our goal is to get to the main draw (Finals)."

Britain's Davis Cup captain Leon Smith congratulated Japan and praised their team's depth.

## SPOTLIGHT

# Mercedes 'streamliner' fetches record 51mn euros at auction

Reuters  
Stuttgart, Germany

A streamlined Mercedes raced by Formula One greats Stirling Moss and Juan Manuel Fangio in 1955 set a record for a grand prix car yesterday, selling at auction for 51.155mn euros (\$53.01mn). The sleek, silver W196 R Stromlinienwagen, one of only four complete examples in existence, was sold by RM Sotheby's at the Mercedes museum in Stuttgart, Germany, on behalf of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway (IMS).

The car had a price estimate of more than 50 million euros and, while the bidding rapidly reached 40mn in 5-million-euro increments, it eased off before a final hammer figure of 46.5mn.

The final price includes the buyers' premium. The buyer was not immediately

named. The costliest car ever sold at auction was a 1955 Mercedes 300SLR Uhlenhaut Coupe sports car that changed hands for 135 million euros in May 2022.

The most expensive grand prix car previously sold at auction was another ex-Fangio Mercedes W196 from 1954 that fetched \$29.6 million at Goodwood, England, in 2013. The IMS car is the first W196 R to become available for private ownership with the streamlined body fitted.

The car was driven to victory by five times world champion Fangio at the non-championship Buenos Aires Grand Prix in 1955, but with a more conventional cigar-shaped body on the same chassis, and fully open wheels.

Teammate Moss then raced it with the wider, streamlined body extending over the wheels at the season-ending Italian Grand Prix at Monza, retiring after setting the fastest lap at an average speed of 215.7

kph (134.0 mph). That grand prix marked the end of an era for the Mercedes stable's 'Silver Arrows' as the firm withdrew from factory-sponsored motorsport in 1955 after a Le Mans 24 Hours disaster that killed 84 people.

Mercedes returned to Formula One as an engine provider in 1994 and with its own works team from 2010.

The car sold on Saturday, chassis number 00009/54, was donated to the IMS by Mercedes in 1965 and was auctioned to raise funds for the museum's restoration efforts and acquisitions with more U.S. focus.

"It's a beautiful car, it's a very historic car, it's just a little bit outside our scope window," said curator Jason Vansickle.

"We've been fortunate to be stewards of this vehicle for nearly 60 years and it has been a great piece in the museum but with this auction and the proceeds raised, it really will allow us ... to be better in the future."



A streamlined Mercedes raced by Formula One greats Stirling Moss and Juan Manuel Fangio in 1955 set a record for a grand prix car, selling at auction for 51.155mn euros (\$53.01mn) in Fellbach near Stuttgart, Germany, yesterday. (Reuters)



## HORSE RACING

# Al Shomos rallies to clinch Marmi Cup

By Sports Reporter  
Doha

**A**l Shomos proved age is just a number as the 10-year-old mare under Faleh Bughanaim came from behind to clinch the Marmi Cup in style at Al Uqda Racecourse yesterday.

The Ahmed Kobeissi-trained veteran demonstrated her class and experience in the 1,200m Local Thoroughbred Open Race to claim a one-length victory over Black Pearl, landing the title for owner Saeed bin Mubarak Saeed Aljafali al-Naimi.

The victory secured a quick double for Bughanaim, who rode Austral to win in the Thoroughbred Handicap 80-100 – the penultimate race of the day.

Meanwhile, Szczepan Mazur also maintained his winning run sealing a treble in seven-race 13th Al Uqda Race Meeting.

He first piloted Al Khebrah to Purebred Arabian Maiden Plate (Class 6) crown and then sealed the victory in the following Thoroughbred Handicap 0-75 race with Hamad al-Jehani-trained



Connections of Al Shomos celebrate after the mare won the Marmi Cup at Al Uqda Racecourse yesterday.

Ripple Effect.

Mazur completed his hat-trick with Julian Colin Smart-trained Khalil Du Croate, capturing the Purebred Arabian Handicap 65-85 (Class 4) trophy.

In other races, Alam Al Zaem emerged winner in the Local Purebred Arabian Maiden Plate (Class 6) with Alberto Sanna in

the saddle, while Youssef Lachhab piloted Gold Lily to Thoroughbred Handicap 65-85 (Class 4) triumph.

**RESULTS**  
**13th Al Uqda Race Meeting - Marmi Cup**  
**WINNERS: (Horse, Trainer, Jockey)**

**1 - Marmi Cup - Local Thoroughbred Open Race (Class 2)**  
Al Shomos, Ahmed Kobeissi, Faleh Bughanaim  
**2 - Thoroughbred Handicap 80-100 (Win And In Shalifa Qualifier)**  
Austral, Jean de Mieulle, Faleh Bughanaim



Faleh Bughanaim guided Al Shomos to victory. PICTURES: Juhaim

**3 - Purebred Arabian Handicap 65-85 (Class 4)**  
Khalil Du Croate, Julian Colin Smart, Szczepan Mazur  
**4 - Thoroughbred Handicap 65-85 (Class 4)**  
Gold Lily, Ibrahim Saeed al-Malki, Youssef Lachhab  
**5 - Thoroughbred Handicap 0-75 (3yo Only) (Class 5)**

Ripple Effect, Hamad al-Jehani, Szczepan Mazur  
**6 - Purebred Arabian Maiden Plate (Class 6)**  
Al Khebrah, Zuhair Mohsen, Szczepan Mazur  
**7 - Local Purebred Arabian Maiden Plate (Class 6)**  
Alam Al Zaem, Mohamed Khaled Elahmed, Alberto Sanna

## FOOTBALL

# Bayern survive late Kiel fightback to go nine clear

Dortmund earn first league win this year as they down Heidenheim

AFP  
Berlin

**B**ayern Munich stretched their lead at the top of the Bundesliga to nine points yesterday with an extraordinary 4-3 victory over Holstein Kiel.

Bayern led 4-0 as Harry Kane scored twice, but Finn Porath replied for Kiel before Steven Skrzybski's stoppage-time double threatened to steal an unlikely point. The full-time whistle was met with relief around the Allianz Arena. "None of us are happy that we won 4-3 here," Jamal Musiala, scorer of Bayern's first goal, told Sky Sport. "We have to have the mentality to work for 90 minutes and avoid conceding goals."

Bayern coach Vincent Kompany was also irritated with the manner in which his team ended the game.

"It was a pretty complete game until the 80th minute. But we also played against a team that was fighting for every moment," Kompany told reporters.

"I thought we started the second half really well, but in terms of how we finished the game, that's something we'll have to review with the players."

With Bayern's closest title rivals, Bayer Leverkusen, hosting Hoffenheim on Sunday, Kompany's side took their chance to widen the gap between them and the champions.

The Bavarians went ahead in the 19th minute when Musiala finished a beautiful team goal that involved a quick interchange of passes between Joshua Kimmich, Michael Olise and then Musiala, who steered in his 10th league goal of the season.

Kiel had almost made it to half-time just a goal behind but with less than a minute of stop-



Bayern Munich players celebrate after their fourth goal against Holstein Kiel during the Bundesliga match in Munich yesterday. (AFP)

page time to go, Bayern struck a killer blow. Kingsley Coman beat his man on the left and lofted a cross onto the head of Kane, who couldn't miss from close range.

Kane scored another in the first minute of the second half, heading home Raphael Guerreiro's pinpoint cross. It was Kane's 55th league goal in 50 appearances, another Bundesliga goalscoring record for the England captain.

"To have 55 in 50 is obviously a proud feeling but as always with me it's about the next 50 games and seeing how many more I can

get," said Kane. Serge Gnabry joined the party with a fine goal, bringing a high ball under his spell with his right foot and volleying in with his left.

Kiel struck back with a beautifully-executed strike by Porath which seemed little more than a consolation, even after the fourth official indicated five additional minutes. Skrzybski's late brace nearly embarrassed Bayern but the hosts limped over the line as wounded victors.

Borussia Dortmund picked up a slim 2-1 victory at struggling Hei-

denheim in their final game before Niko Kovac takes charge, following the recent sacking of coach Nuri Sahin.

Dortmund went in front as Heidenheim couldn't clear a corner and Serhou Guirassy scored from close range.

It was the Guinean striker's fifth goal in his last four games and followed a double in the Champions League in midweek against Shakhtar Donetsk.

Heidenheim came into the contest without a win in their previous 14 league games and occupying the relegation play-off position. The game remained tight until the hour when Ramy Bensebaini drilled a low cross in from the left and substitute Max Beier made a difficult finish look easy.

Dortmund became their own worst enemies, conceding 18 seconds after the restart as Mathias Honsak cut their lead in half.

But Dortmund held firm and weathered some late pressure to pick up a first league win since December 22, snapping a four-game winless streak in the Bundesliga.

Elsewhere yesterday, Germany international Tim Kleindienst scored a late winner for Borussia Moenchengladbach in a 2-1 victory at Stuttgart.

Gladbach led when Nathan N'Goumou rifled into the roof of the net but a Nico Elvedi own goal soon after the break levelled the contest. But a slick Gladbach counter-attack saw Lukas Ullrich pick out Kleindienst, who tapped in the winner. Freiburg picked up a 1-0 win at bottom-placed Bochum, with Kiliann Sildillia nodding in his first Bundesliga goal. St Pauli were denied victory when Augsburg teenager Mert Komur struck late to ensure a 1-1 draw.

RB Leipzig moved back into the top four despite being held 0-0 at struggling Union Berlin.

## LIGUE 1

# In-form Dembele hits hat-trick again as PSG thump Brest

AFP  
Paris

**O**usmane Dembele scored a hat-trick for the second time in four days as Paris Saint-Germain hammered Brest 5-2 yesterday in a dress rehearsal of the upcoming Champions League clash between the two sides.

Dembele followed up his three-goal haul in Wednesday's 4-1 win at VfB Stuttgart which saw PSG secure a place in the knockout phase play-offs of Europe's elite club competition.

The France winger opened the scoring in the first half, and netted two more after Romain Del Castillo had briefly brought Brest level.

Ludovic Ajorque pulled another one back for the home side to set up a grandstand finale, but substitute Goncalo Ramos wrapped up the win for PSG with a late double.

Luis Enrique's side are still unbeaten domestically this season and now sit 13 points clear at the top of the Ligue 1 table.

Marseille, who are second, can narrow that gap a little when they host Lyon on Sunday, but PSG are cruising to their 11th French league title in 13 years.

Dembele, meanwhile, is loving playing in a central attacking role rather than his traditional position wide on the right.

He has now scored 14 goals in his last nine games in all competitions, and is Ligue 1's leading marksman with 14 for the season. "I am well positioned in the number nine role. I owe it to myself to score goals," Dembele told broadcaster beIN Sports.

"It was important to win today to keep our good run going and now we will see what hap-

pens in the Champions League?" PSG's record against domestic opponents this season means Brest will surely be dreading having to face Luis Enrique's side again over two legs in the Champions League.

The teams will meet in the first leg on February 11 in Guingamp, where Brest are having to host Champions League games this season as their own Stade Francis-Le Ble does not meet UEFA requirements.

They were in their usual home stadium for this game, but they could not stop PSG making it 14 games unbeaten in all competitions.

Bradley Barcola raced onto a through ball before squaring for Dembele to open the scoring just before the half-hour mark.

Brest, who lost 3-0 against Real Madrid in midweek, came out fighting after the break and drew level five minutes into the second half thanks to a lovely low strike by Del Castillo from the edge of the box.

However, the visitors were back ahead before the hour mark as Khvicha Kvaratskhelia was denied in the box but the ball broke for Dembele to score.

He then completed his hat-trick soon after, having been picked out by a superb Lee Kang-in pass.

Ajorque's terrific hit made it 3-2, but Ramos came on for Dembele and made it 4-2 on 89 minutes at the end of a counter-attack led by Desire Doue, who had replaced Kvaratskhelia.

Ramos, the Portugal striker, then scored again deep in injury time, his eighth goal of the season coming as he tried to set up a teammate but saw the ball break back to him.

Brest are eighth, four points outside the European places for next season.



Paris St Germain's Ousmane Dembele celebrates scoring their second goal against Brest yesterday. (Reuters)

## ATALANTA HELD BY TORINO AS SERIE A TITLE BID SLIPS AWAY

**MILAN:** Atalanta were held to a 1-1 draw at home by Torino yesterday, a result which puts a major dent in the hosts' Serie A title ambitions after Mateo Retegui missed the chance to win the tie from the penalty spot.

Atalanta are third in the standings on 47 points, three adrift of Inter Milan in second who have played two fewer games and face AC Milan on Sunday. Leaders Napoli, who play AS Roma today, are a further three points ahead. Torino remain 11th on 27 points.

For more than half an hour, Atalanta had the lion's share of possession and spent most of the time in the opposition's half but with little to show for it apart from a Raoul Bellanova disallowed goal for handball.

Torino displayed little urgency, and were even warned for time wasting in the opening half, before a goal from the hosts spurred them into life.

Atalanta made the breakthrough in the 35th minute from a corner kick, where Berat Djimsiti rose above his marker to power a header past the goalkeeper from the edge of the six-yard box, but could only hold their lead for five minutes.

Torino won a free kick, which Valentino Lazaro floated towards the back post, and Guillermo Maripan got ahead of everyone for a free header from close range to level.

The second half brought little in the way of chances, with Atalanta substitute Juan Cuad-

rado twice letting fly from distance but never really troubling keeper Vanja Milinkovic-Savic. A penalty kick with 16 minutes remaining did give Atalanta the chance to retake the lead, after a foul by Adrien Tameze on Retegui. However, Retegui's weak effort from the spot was pushed away by Milinkovic-Savic.

Atalanta continued to search for the winner but never really threatened the Torino goal again, and the only good news for the home fans was the sight of Gianluca Scamacca coming off the bench late in the game.

The striker ruptured his anterior cruciate ligament in a pre-season friendly and this was his first appearance of the season, but there were no late heroics to greet his comeback.