To subscribe
GULF TIMES
Newspaper
Please call
44466635



CRICKET | Page 2

Captain Marsh guides Australia to victory in rain-hit India ODI



FOOTBALL | Page 4

Man United stretch Liverpool losing streak to four games

To advertise here,
PLEASE CALL
444 666 21

Monday, October 20, 2025
Rabia II 28, 1447 AH

GULF TIMES
SPORT



MOTORSPORT

Spain's Fernandez surges to maiden MotoGP win in Australia

Page 3

FOOTBALL

Al Arabi crush Al Duhail 4-0 as Umm Salal go second in table

By Sport Reporter
Doha

Al Arabi handed Al Duhail a crushing 4-0 defeat in the fifth round match of the QSL Cup 2025-26 season at the Grand Hamad Stadium yesterday.

The victory, Al Arabi's third of the tournament, yesterday kept them in third place in the standings with 10 points – behind on goal difference with leaders Al Kharaitiyat and second-placed Umm Salal.

Al Rayyan, also with 10 points, are in fourth spot.

Al Duhail with a second loss and 4 points have slipped to 15th place.

Al Arabi were on the attack against Al Duhail from the word go with Isaac Lihadji scoring in the 2nd minute of the match. Jordan Veretout scored the team's second goal in the 40th minute.

In the second half Aladin Hasan (67th minute) and Pablo Sarabia (72nd minute) added more to the tally.

UMM SALAL THRASH AL SADD 5-0

Earlier, Umm Salal blanked Al Sadd 5-0 at the Al Shamal Stadium.

It was Umm Salal's third win of the tournament while Al Sadd, who suffered their third defeat, remain on 1 point and in 19th place in the 20-team tournament.

Umm Salal led 1-0 at half time only to come back steamrolling in the second session to score four more goals.

Antonio Mance (38th minute), Cristo Gonzalez (48th minute), Jean Quaisi (70 & 82 minutes) and Ahmed Sayed (90+1 minute) got the goals for Umm Salal.

QATAR SC BEAT AL AHLI 6-1

Qatar SC yesterday beat Al Ahli 6-1 at Al Khor Stadium.

The game was clearly beyond Al Ahli's reach by the blast of the whistle for the closing of the first half, with Qatar SC leading 4-0, benefiting from two own goals from Al Ahli's Khaled Hassan (second and 39th minutes), while Raoul Sanda (14th minute) and Saeed Brahmi (44th minute) added one each.

The Brigadiers got their consolation goal in the 49th minute via a penalty kick through Talal Ali, but Joao Pedro (75th minute) and Yan Matheus (88th minute) added two more for Qatar SC to ensure the emphatic victory, which secured them their first 3 points (their only points so far) of the competition, while Al Ahli remained on 1 point.



Action from the Al Duhail vs Al Arabi fifth round match of QSL Cup played at the Grand Hamad Stadium in Doha yesterday.

AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE ELITE

Duhail aim for first win; Al Ahli hope to return to winning ways

The UAE side sit fourth in the standings with four points, while Qatar's Al Duhail are three adrift in ninth place

Agencies
Abu Dhabi

Al Duhail will face UAE's Al Wahda at the Al Nahyan Stadium for their AFC Champions League Elite 2025-26 match at the at the Al Nahyan Stadium today.

Al Wahda will target maximum points when they welcome Al Duhail to the Al Nahyan Stadium for their AFC Champions League Elite tie at the Al Nahyan Stadium today.

The UAE side sit fourth in the standings with four points, while Qatar's Al Duhail are three adrift in ninth place.

Al Wahda, however, will tread carefully as their head-to-head record isn't in their favour, having lost both previous encounters against the Qatari side.

They will draw confidence from their good start to the season – domestically as well as on the continental stage – in their bid to walk away with the points.

Leading their charge will be Omar Khribin, who led Syria to AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027 qualification this past week.

Al Duhail, who held defending champions Saudi Arabia's Al Ahli to a 2-2 draw three weeks ago, need to get on the winning trail if knockout stage qualification is to be achieved.

"We are ready to play the match, and we look forward to achieving our first victory in the continental competition," Al Duhail coach Djamel Belmadi said.

"Although we have only earned one point from two matches, I do not consider them negative results, especially since we played against Al Hilal and Al Ahli of Saudi Arabia, and I believe that the confrontation with Al Wahda will also be strong, during which we will try to play with extreme focus."



Al Duhail players during a training session yesterday, on the eve of the AFC Champions League Elite 2025-26 match against Al Wahda at the Al Nahyan Stadium in Abu Dhabi.

That will require defensive resolve, with four goals having already been conceded but they are struggling for form – sitting sixth in the Qatar Stars League.

They did come within a whisker of defeating Al Ahli and if they can reproduce that form, they may well extend their winning streak against Al Wahda.

AL GHARAFA VS AL AHLI

Al Ahli of Saudi Arabia will be aiming to return to winning ways when they entertain Al Gharafa in the AFC Champions League Elite at the King Abdullah Sports City Stadium today.

The defending champions were held to a 2-2 draw by Qatar's Al Duhail SC on Matchday Two, which halted the Saudi Arabian side's winning run at eight.

The draw, however, meant that Al Ahli joined Saudi Pro League rivals Al Hilal SFC and Ulsan HD of South Republic on a 20-match unbeaten run in the continental showpiece and they will be determined to claim the record for themselves today.

The head-to-head with Al Gharafa is very much in Al Ahli's favour as they are unbeaten in their last five meetings – winning two and drawing three.

They will expect to score, having already netted six goals, but their defence has been porous with four conceded in their earlier two matches and Al Ahli will be focused on staying tight at the back.

Al Gharafa will not be fazed by the prospect of playing Al Ahli away, especially after defeating Iraq's Al Shorta 2-0 on Matchday Two.

Al Gharafa's coach Pedro Martins while addressing the media on eve of the match, said, "A tough match awaits us against the title holder, and we will play in our style with the aim of achieving victory."

Joselu will be counted on to deliver the goals, with the Spanish forward leading the continental charts with three and if he scores today, he will become the first Al Gharafa player to score in three consecutive games to start a season since at least 2013.

The Qatari side, however, have lost their last three away games on the continent.



Al Gharafa coach Pedro Martins addressing a press conference in Jeddah yesterday.

SPORT

CRICKET

Marsh guides Australia to win in rain-hit India ODI

ROHIT, KOHLI FAIL TO KICK ON AS HOSTS COMPLETE A SEVEN-WICKET WIN IN PERTH

AFP
Perth, Australia



Australia's Mitch Marsh (right) looks at his helmet after being hit by a short delivery from India's Mohammad Siraj (left) during the first ODI in Perth yesterday. *(AFP)*



India's Virat Kohli (centre) reacts as Australia's paceman Mitchell Starc (left) celebrates his wicket during the first ODI in Perth yesterday. *(AFP)*

Australia captain Mitchell Marsh guided his side to a comfortable seven-wicket win against India in a rain-affected first one-day international in Perth yesterday.

Chasing 131 for victory in a match that was reduced to 26 overs a side, Marsh scored 46 not out as the home side cruised to an easy win to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series.

Matt Renshaw was unbeaten on 21 alongside Marsh as Australia reached 131-3 with 29 balls remaining. Josh Philippe contributed 37, batting at number four.

"Obviously the weather played its part today," Marsh said. "But it's nice to get a win.

"The ball was swinging around for both teams out there so it was a little bit of a challenge to get through. I was proud of the way our young guys came out and got the job done."

Marsh, who was also named player of the match, won the toss and chose to field due to the inclement weather around the Western Australia city.

It paid dividends as India's innings was hampered by rain delays, which frustrated the visitors who struggled to build any momentum.

A quickfire 38 off 31 balls from KL Rahul helped India to recover to 136-9, with Australia set 131 to win after the total was adjusted on the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern system.

Australia's opening bowlers Josh Hazlewood and Mitchell Starc troubled the Indian batsmen with a good line and movement.

Hazlewood had Rohit Sharma caught at second slip for eight before Starc claimed Virat Kohli without scoring, leaving the visitors 21-2. India skipper Shubman Gill was caught by wicketkeeper Philippe off Nathan Ellis for 10 before the first rain delay, with India 23-3 after 8.5 overs.

"When you lose three wickets in the powerplay you are always trying to play a catch-up game," Gill said. "But there are a lot of learnings for us from this game and a lot of positives as well."

Hazlewood grabbed his second victim when Shreyas Iyer gloved a ball to Philippe before another long delay with India at 45-4. When they eventually resumed, the game was reduced to 26 overs.

Rahul smashed two huge sixes but fell on the boundary going for a third. Nitish Reddy blasted 19 runs off the last two overs but the reduced total was never enough.

The two teams meet again in Adelaide on Thursday before the final match at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Saturday.

BRIEF SCORES
Australia 131 for 3 (Marsh 46*) **beat India 136 for 9** (Rahul 38) **by seven wickets (DLS squad)**

FINAL BOW

England stars pay tribute to Bird at umpire's funeral

AFP
London



Legendary cricket umpire **Dickie Bird** was hailed as one the sport's greatest characters as former England stars Geoff Boycott and Michael Vaughan led the tributes at his funeral yesterday.

Bird died at the age of 92 in September and his life was celebrated in a service at St Mary's Church in his hometown of Barnsley.

Former England captain Vaughan joined ex-England batsmen Boycott and Martyn Moxon were among the mourners.

Boycott, 84, shared speaking duties with Yorkshire chair Colin Graves as the pair took turns to pay their respects to Bird.

Boycott, who knew Bird from the age of 15, described the umpire as "comic and lovable" and "daft as a brush".

"He became the most famous and well-known umpire in the world, but most importantly he was the best umpire in the world," Boycott said.

"Harold Dennis Bird was a one-off and very, very special. Rest in peace, my friend."

Bird's coffin, which entered the church to the music of Edward Elgar and left to the strains of My Way by Frank Sinatra, was topped by his trademark white flat cap and decked out in a floral cricketing tribute of a bat and ball.

Flags representing the sport's Test-playing nations were among on the coffin.

"Dickie was one of the family. He will be missed greatly but never forgotten," Graves said.

"A national and a Yorkshire treasure. What you saw is what you got."

Bird, who retired from playing at 32, went on to stand as an umpire in a then record 66 Test matches, as well as 69 ODIs and three World Cup finals.

He was renowned for his ability to build positive relationships with players.

Bird's distinctive mannerisms and eccentric charm saw him become a celebrity in his own right and his autobiography sold in excess of one million copies.

"He was such a great character. He was married to cricket and his home was Headingley," Vaughan said.

"We'll give him a great send-off. He brought so much joy to so many people around the world. Not just in Yorkshire but all round the globe, they'll be raising a toast."

MATCH REPORT

England reach ICC World Cup semi-finals after four-run victory over India in tense finish

AFP
Colombo



England's Heather Knight and Lauren Bell celebrate with teammates after the ICC Women's World Cup match against India at Holkar Cricket Stadium in Indore, India, yesterday. *(Reuters)*

Four-time champions England booked their ticket to the semi-finals of the Women's World Cup after pulling off a nail-biting four-run win over hosts India in Indore yesterday.

England had posted a competitive 288-8 thanks to Heather Knight's century and held their nerve in the field to defend it, despite their bowling, usually their strong suit, being a touch off colour.

India looked to be cruising towards victory, needing just 62 runs off the last 10 overs with seven wickets in hand.

But the dismissal of Smriti Mandhana turned the tide, as scoreboard pressure crept in and dot balls piled up.

Soon after, Richa Ghosh and Deepti Sharma departed in quick succession, leaving the tail high and dry.

Reckless batting cost India dear.

Mandhana's downfall opened the floodgates when she danced down the track to left-arm spinner Linsey Smith but failed to clear long-off. Then, after reaching her half-century, Deepti Sharma perished trying to take on Sophie Ecclestone, a slog sweep that found deep mid-wicket to perfection. From there, the writing was on the wall.

"We probably needed 300, but we did well to pull things back and I'm very happy. Didn't contribute much in the last couple of games, so it felt good to come up with a match-winning hundred," said Knight, whose classy 109 off 91 balls, laced with 15 fours and a six, was the backbone of England's innings.

England's openers gave them a brisk start with 73 runs for the first wicket before Knight joined captain Nat Sciver-Brunt in a 113-run stand that kept the scoreboard ticking.

At one stage, England looked set to go past 300, but Knight's run out attempting a second run triggered a slowdown, as India tightened the screws and conceded only 74 runs in the final 10 overs. Deepti Sharma was the pick of the bowlers, finishing with four wickets.

It was India's third successive defeat leaving their next clash against New Zealand a virtual knockout.

With both teams locked on four points, it's a case of do or die to stay in the hunt for the last semi-final berth, with Australia, England and South Africa already safely through.

England, meanwhile, have been clinical, through to the semis with two games in hand. They sit second on the table with nine points, level with defending champions Australia, separated only by a whisker in Net Run Rate.

"Not sure how we lost this game. We had it in the bag. We've worked so hard and when the last five overs slip away from you, it's heartbreaking. This is the third straight game we've lost after coming so close," lamented India captain Harmanpreet Kaur.

BRIEF SCORES
England 288 for 8 (Knight 109, Jones 56, Deepti 4-51) **beat India 284 for 6** (Mandhana 88, Harmanpreet 70, Deepti 50, Sciver-Brunt 2-47) **by four runs.**

FOCUS

Fatma al-Ghanim wins 2025 World Triathlon Women's Committee Award of Excellence



Fatma al-Ghanim

Fatma Issa al-Ghanim has received the 2025 World Triathlon Women's Committee Award of Excellence, recognising her pioneering leadership and lifelong dedication to advancing women's participation in triathlon and sport across Qatar and the region.

The announcement was made during the 38th World Triathlon Congress, held in Wollongong, Australia, where global leaders in triathlon gathered to celebrate excellence, inclusion, and the advancement of women in sport.

Fatma, who serves as Assistant Secretary-General of the Qatar Cycling and Triathlon Federation and Vice-President of the Arab Cycling Association, has played a transformative role in expanding opportunities for women in endurance sports.

Under her leadership and that of her colleagues at the federation, women's participation in triathlon in Qatar has grown steadily, with increasing visibility, representation, and access at all levels of the sport.

Among her key initiatives is the "Cycle Her Way" programme — an ambitious women's cycling initiative launched earlier this year under the Qatar Cycling and Triathlon Federation's strategy to build a stronger foundation for women's cycling in Qatar. The programme has inspired hundreds of women of all backgrounds to take part in training sessions and community rides, creating a supportive pathway for women and girls to embrace sport as part of their lifestyle.

Fatma was also part of the leadership team behind the Asia Triathlon Cup 2021, which brought elite international racing — both men's and women's — back to Qatar for the first time in more than a decade.

Continuing that legacy, she now serves as part of the organising leadership team bringing the Qatar T100 Triathlon World Championship Final to Doha for the first time, to be held from 10–13 December 2025.

This global event will mark a historic milestone for triathlon in Qatar and the wider region, showcasing the nation's growing prominence in hosting world-class multisport events.

Beyond the sporting field, Fatma also champions the stories of Arab women athletes through film and storytelling. Her debut documentary, Theatre of Dreams, will have its home debut at the upcoming Doha Film Festival in November 2025.

The film tells the story of her journey as captain of Qatar's first-ever women's national football team and the social challenges faced in breaking barriers for future generations.

Commenting on the award, Fatma said: "This award is a collective achievement — it represents every woman who took the first step, every supporter who stood beside us, and every leader who believed in inclusion. Our journey is still unfolding, but with every finish line we cross, we open a new starting line for the next generation."

The Qatar Cycling and Triathlon Federation congratulated Fatma on this international recognition, noting that her achievement reflects Qatar's growing leadership in promoting women's sports and advancing the values of inclusion and equality outlined in Qatar National Vision 2030.

GOLF

Fleetwood wins in India to continue blistering form

India's World Cup hero hands over winner's trophy to Fleetwood

AFP
New Delhi


England's Tommy Fleetwood (left) poses with the trophy along with retired cricket star Kapil Dev, President of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI), after winning the DP World India Championship 2025 at the Delhi Golf Club in New Delhi yesterday. *(AFP)*

Red-hot Tommy Fleetwood shot a superb final round of seven-under 65 yesterday to win the DP World India Championship by two strokes, continuing a blistering run of form.

Japan's Keita Nakajima began the day in the lead with a two-shot cushion at 17-under par, but his three-under 69 was not enough to hold off the charge of the Englishman who finished at 22-under par.

After tapping in for par at the last, the popular Fleetwood enjoyed a magical moment when his seven-year-old son Frankie charged across the green to hug his father to huge cheers from the packed galleries.

"So we were at home last week and we were playing golf together and (Frankie) just said randomly: 'Do you know what you've never done?'," explained Fleetwood.

"'You've never won a tournament and I've been able to run on to the 18th green'.

"All day today, I had in my mind: 'Could I put myself in a position where I can actually make that moment happen?'.

"It's just one of those little things that means a lot to me. That was really cool. That's what I wanted to do all day."

Fleetwood took control with four birdies from the seventh at the devilishly tight Delhi Golf Club, but it was a crucial par putt at the 11th that kept his round going.

BIG PUTT

"That one on 11 – I hit a couple of poor iron shots there on 11 and 12 – but that putt was big and I managed to just keep it going through the back nine," said Fleetwood.

The 34-year-old put the title beyond doubt with a brilliant 25-foot putt for an eighth birdie of the day at the 17th to end Nakajima's chances and the Japanese player had to settle for second.

The Englishman's win followed him lifting the PGA Tour's FedEx Cup order of merit in August.

He sealed that by finishing in the top four of the first two PGA Tour playoff events and then winning the season-ending Tour Championship for his maiden victory on the US-based circuit.

"There's plenty of times where things haven't gone my way," said Fleetwood. "But the last two tournaments (where) I've been in contention I've won, so maybe things are starting to even out a little bit."

Fleetwood, the world number five, was also the leading points scorer for the victorious European team at the Ryder Cup last month.

The inaugural $4mn event in India attracted a host of Ryder Cup players and star names to the historic Lodhi course at Delhi Golf Club, a green lung in the heart of the city studded with the ruins of Mughal-era tombs.

Ireland's Shane Lowry had a final-round 68 to tie for third on 18-under par with England's Alex Fitzpatrick and South Africa's Thriston Lawrence.

Norway's Viktor Hovland finished with a flourish, sinking a chip for an eagle three at the 18th to get into a three-way tie for sixth at 17-under.

Rory McIlroy struggled to get going yesterday and a 71 that left him on 11-under and a share of 26th place.

New Zealand's Daniel Hillier briefly threatened an upset with seven birdies in his first 10 holes to take the early final-round lead yesterday.

But he was derailed by a double-bogey seven at the 14th and slipped back to finish at 16-under par and a share of ninth place.

TENNIS

Rybakina wins Ningbo title to close in on WTA Finals appearance


Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina poses with the trophy after winning the final against Russia's Ekaterina Alexandrova at the Ningbo Open yesterday. *(Reuters)*

Reuters
Ningbo, China

Elena Rybakina rallied from a set down to beat Russian fourth seed Ekaterina Alexandrova 3-6 6-0 6-2 and win the Ningbo Open title yesterday, as her late surge to reach next month's WTA Finals gained momentum.

A 10th career title for Rybakina means the Kazakh only has to reach the semi-finals of the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo this week to seal the last qualifying spot for the season finale at the expense of Russian teenager Mirra Andreeva.

Others who have qualified for the WTA Finals, to be held in the Saudi Arabian capital of Riyadh from November 1-8, are Aryna Sabalenka, Iga Swiatek, Coco Gauff, Amanda Anisimova, Jessica Pegula, Madison Keys and Jasmine Paolini.

"I'd like to congratulate Ekaterina for a great week and great season," said Rybakina.

"It hasn't been an easy year for all of us, a difficult schedule … thank you so much to my team for always pushing me to be better.

"The end of the season isn't easy but without you I wouldn't be here. Hopefully, we can push a little more this week (in Tokyo)."

Alexandrova made a flying start, racing 4-1 ahead as Rybakina struggled to rein in the errors and mix up her game, before the 30-year-old comfortably took the first set with a powerful forehand winner.

Desperate to prevent a fourth straight defeat by Alexandrova on hardcourts, Russian-born Rybakina came out firing in the next set, hitting a crosscourt winner to consolidate an early break and lay the platform to level the match.

World number nine Rybakina cranked up the intensity from the baseline in the deciding set, but it was a foray to the net that earned the 26-year-old another early break, and she went on to claim her second trophy of the season.

Medvedev wins first title in over two years in Kazakhstan

Daniil Medvedev won his first title in two years yesterday, defeating Frenchman Corentin Moutet 7-5, 4-6, 6-3 in the final of the ATP 250 tournament in Almaty.

Since winning in Rome in May 2023, Medvedev, ranked 14 in the world, has lost six finals including the US Open the same year, and the Australian Open the following January.

This year he lost in the second round in Melbourne before going out in the first round at Roland Garros, Wimbledon and Flushing Meadows.

After the US Open, Medvedev started working with new coaches Thomas Johansson and Rohan Goetzke and responded by reaching the semi-finals in Beijing and Shanghai.

The 21st victory of his career also boosts his hopes of reaching the year-ending ATP Finals, moving him up three spots to 12th, just 875 points behind Lorenzo Musetti who is in the eighth and final place.

"It is great. I was not super happy with how I played in some moments of the match, but to win feels amazing," said Medvedev. "In the most important points I played good."

The Russian will compete in the ATP 500 in Vienna next week in an attempt to continue his climb up the rankings. "The last game was incredible and I am happy to win the title," said Medvedev. "It continues my funny story of 21 titles in 21 different cities."

Corentin, 26, is still waiting for his first career title after a third final defeat following Doha in 2020 and in Mallorca this year.

SPOTLIGHT

Trackhouse's Fernandez storms to maiden MotoGP victory at Phillip Island

Reuters
Phillip Island, Australia


Trackhouse MotoGP Team's Spanish rider Raul Fernandez rides during the Australian Grand Prix on Philip Island yesterday. *(AFP)*

Raul Fernandez delivered a dominant performance to claim his maiden MotoGP victory at the Australian Grand Prix yesterday, securing a first-ever triumph for Trackhouse Racing in the premier class.

Sprint-winner Marco Bezzecchi, who began second on the grid, made an electric start to snatch the lead from pole-sitter Fabio Quartararo before the first corner. The Italian's rapid getaway also allowed Fernandez and Pedro Acosta to overtake Quartararo, who had set a record-breaking lap in Saturday's qualifying.

However, Bezzecchi charge was short-lived, as he had to serve a double long lap penalty for his collision with newly-crowned MotoGP champion Marc Marquez at the Indonesian Grand Prix. The Aprilia rider served his penalty and fought his way back to an impressive third-place finish.

DI GIANNANTONIO SECOND

Fernandez capitalised on Bezzecchi's setback to take the lead, and once he found himself with clear track ahead, the 24-year-old Spaniard was untouchable.

Fernandez's triumph marked a milestone for Aprilia, as they became the most successful European manufacturer in the history of Grand Prix racing with a 300th victory.

"So sorry, but I cannot believe it," Fernandez said. "The team always believed in me. They never stopped supporting me. So it is the consequence of hard work.

"So thanks to them, of course, we have a really good pace. We know that on this kind of track, you need to manage the tyres very well, and I tried to because at the end we knew that it was very difficult to manage. That is what I did, especially in the last five laps. It was a super long race for me."

Acosta, Alex Marquez and Fabio Di Giannantonio traded places in a fierce contest before VR46 Racing's Di Giannantonio managed to clinch second place, with Bezzecchi completing the podium after his remarkable recovery.

"It was a super tough race," Bezzecchi said. "With the penalty, everything was more complicated, but my strategy worked perfectly, because I wanted to make the perfect start and try to push at the beginning. I had a bit of a gap when I took the penalty, so I'm super happy. I did not imagine a podium with the penalty."

Quartararo endured a torrid race, dropping down the order to finish a disappointing 11th.

It was all heartbreak for local hope Jack Miller as the Australian crashed out of podium contention while running in sixth place. Two-times MotoGP champion Francesco Bagnaia also saw his weekend end in frustration, retiring after a crash with four laps remaining.


Spanish MotoGP Raul Fernandez celebrates after winning the Australian Grand Prix on Philip Island yesterday. *(AFP)*

FIP Asia Padel Cup in full swing


Kuwait players have a team discussion during their win over Indonesia on day three of the FIP Padel Asia Cup in Doha yesterday. Kuwait won 2-1.


Pakistan players ponder their next attacking move against Thailand yesterday. Pakistan won 3-0.


Thailand women players celebrate a point during their win over Lebanon. Thailand won 2-1.

ROUND THREE OF QSTK 600 CHAMPIONSHIP: AL-QUBAISI AND AL-NAIMI SHINE

Abdulla al-Qubaisi and Mashel al-Naimi secured victories in Round 3 of the 2025 Qatar Super Stock (QSTK) 600 Championship at Lusail International Circuit. In Race 1, al-Qubaisi powered his Yamaha R6 to victory in the 8-lap, 43.4km contest with a time of 16:33.447. Al-Naimi finished just 0.730 seconds behind, while Russia's Dmitry Sedin secured third place, 27.714 seconds adrift. Sedin also topped the QSTK Trophy category on his Kawasaki ZX-6. Despite finishing second, al-Naimi set the fastest lap of the race in 2:03.112, reaching a top speed of 158.5km/h. Race 2 saw al-Naimi striking back, winning the 10-lap race in 20:47.699. Al-Qubaisi followed 5.234 seconds behind, with India's Geoffrey Emmanuel completing the podium, 21.085 seconds back. Sedin topped the QSTK Trophy in Race 2, with Hungary's Marton Belleli finishing second and Russia's Yuri Nekrasov taking third. Earlier, France's Nolann Macary was unstoppable in Round 3 of the Qatar Super Sports (QSSP) 300, winning both races in style. In Race 1, Macary rode his Kawasaki300 to victory in 18:38.025, ahead of Egypt's Mahmoud Elbanna in second and Malaysia's Zaidatul Zairin in third. Macary repeated his success in Race 2, again beating Elbanna, while Andrea Giacchero of Italy claimed third place. Round 4 of the championship, organised by the Qatar Motor & Motorcycle Federation and Lusail International Circuit, will take place on January 30-31, 2026.





PREMIER LEAGUE

Man United stretch Liverpool losing streak to 4 games

TOTTENHAM HUMBLED AT HOME AGAIN AS VILLA HIT BACK

AFP
Liverpool

Liverpool slumped to a fourth consecutive defeat for the first time in 11 years as Manchester United won 2-1 yesterday to end their near decade-long wait for victory at Anfield.

Harry Maguire's 84th minute header secured back-to-back Premier League wins for the first time in Ruben Amorim's tenure as United boss. Twelve minutes from time, Cody Gakpo had cancelled out Bryan Mbeumo's opener after just 61 seconds.

Defeat leaves Liverpool four points adrift of Arsenal at the top of the table and Arne Slot still searching for answers in how to get the right blend after splashing out nearly £450 million ($604 million) on new players in the transfer market.

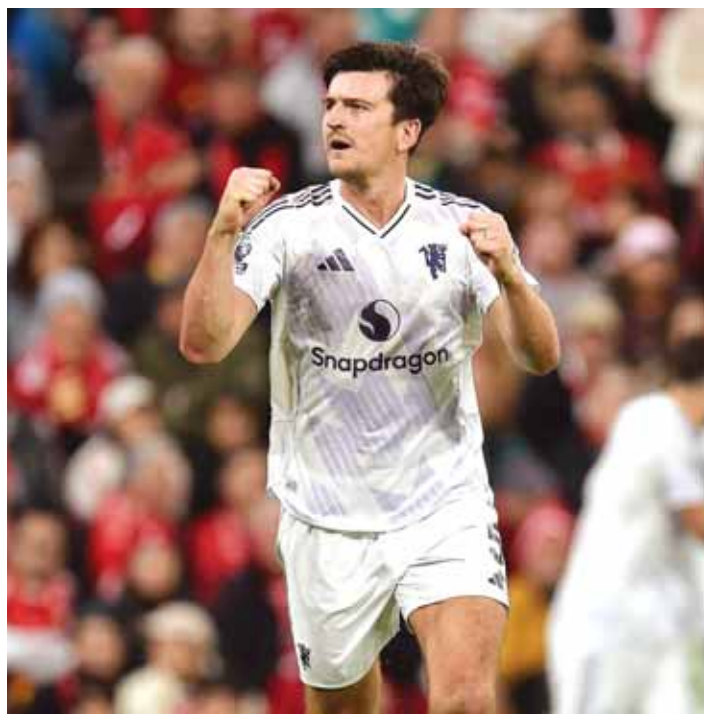
United close to within two points of their historic rivals and up to ninth in the table to ease the pressure on Amorim after his biggest win in nearly a year in charge.

Liverpool had only lost one of the previous 14 Premier League meetings between the sides and United had not tasted victory at Anfield since the early days of Jurgen Klopp's reign in January 2016.

However, the Reds are in a state of flux after transforming the squad that stormed to the title last season and the tragic loss of Diogo Jota, who died in a car accident in July. After three consecutive defeats for the first time in Slot's reign, Liverpool could barely have imagined a worse start.

Mbeumo sped past Virgil van Dijk with ease before firing past Giorgi Mamardashvili from Amad Diallo's pass after barely a minute.

The home side and support were furious that play was not stopped in the build-up after Alexis MacAllister went down with a head injury, inflicted by his own captain Van Dijk.



Manchester United's English defender Harry Maguire celebrates scoring their second goal during the Premier League match against Liverpool at Anfield in Liverpool yesterday. *(AFP)*

Slot left £100mn signing Florian Wirtz on the bench for the second consecutive game as he looked in vain to find the right balance between defence and attack.

Gakpo should have levelled for the defending champions when he hit the post from Mohamed Salah's through ball in Liverpool's one flowing move of the first half.

However, it was United who should have been further in front by half-time.

Bruno Fernandes spurned a glorious chance to double the Red Devils' lead when he hit the outside of the post when unmarked from the edge of the area.

At the other end, Senne Lammens was rarely troubled in the first 45 minutes, but produced a big save when called upon to deny Alexander Isak his first Premier League goal since joining Liverpool for a British transfer record £125mn. A Gakpo deflected cross then came back off the post and the Dutchman rattled the woodwork for a third time early in the second half.

Slot turned to his near £200 million in forward options off the bench as Wirtz and Hugo Ekitike were introduced on the hour mark to join Salah, Gakpo and Isak in a five-man attack.

Salah has scored more goals than any other player in this fixture, but his lack of form showed in a wild finish to slice wide with just Lammens to beat at the back post. Liverpool's wealth of attacking talent finally broke the door down when Federico Chiesa, who had replaced Isak moments earlier, drilled in a low cross that Gakpo converted from point blank range.

Yet, their defensive frailties meant parity only lasted six minutes as Maguire was left unmarked to head in Fernandes's looping cross. Gakpo should still have rescued a point when he headed wide with the goal gaping from Jeremie Frimpong's inviting delivery.

ROGERS AND BUENDIA INSPIRE ASTON VILLA

Morgan Rogers and Emiliano Buendia inspired Aston Villa's fightback to win 2-1 against Tottenham yesterday as the north Londoners suffered more misery on home turf. Rodrigo Bentancur put Thomas Frank's side ahead early in the first half at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

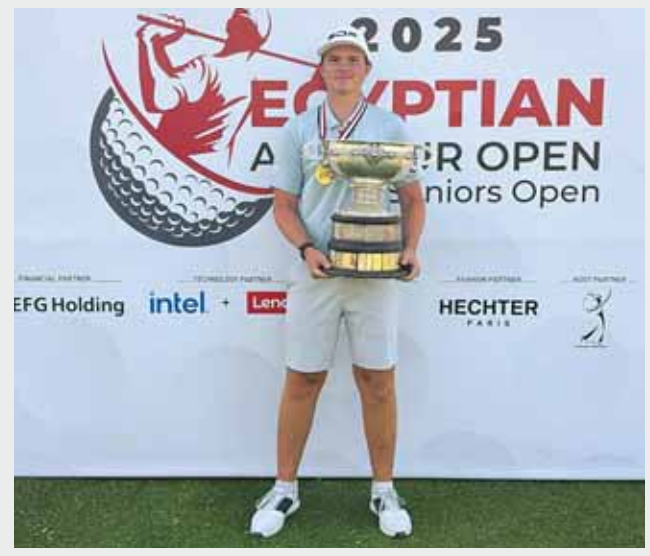
But Rogers equalised with a superb strike before the interval and Buendia came off the bench to seal the points in the closing stages.

Tottenham's woeful home form in the Premier League – 11 defeats and just three wins in 18 league games – has proved a major issue for Frank since he replaced the sacked Ange Postecoglou in the close-season.

While the majority of those home losses came under Postecoglou last term, Frank's short tenure has produced mixed results at the club's 62,000-seat stadium, with boos audible after a defeat to Bournemouth in August and a 1-1 draw with lowly Wolves last month.

The end of Tottenham's seven-game unbeaten run in all competitions left them in sixth place after the second defeat in Frank's eight league games.

Qatar's team captures glory at Egypt Open: Sokolov clinches title, al-Kaabi finishes fourth



The Qatar National Golf Team has added a new chapter to its record of success, with Daniil Sokolov claiming victory at the Egypt Open Golf Championship, a tournament sanctioned by the World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR) and part of the Arab Golf Federation Series. The championship concluded last Saturday in Cairo. Displaying exceptional form and composure, Sokolov dominated the three-round event, finishing nine-under par (-9) to secure the title ahead of a strong field of top Arab and international golfers. His steady performance and mental resilience throughout the competition earned him a thoroughly deserved triumph and the winner's trophy.

Qatar's Saleh al-Kaabi also delivered a commendable performance, finishing fourth at +1, reinforcing Qatar's strong representation and contributing to the country's continued lead in the Arab Golf Federation rankings. This achievement underscores the Qatar Golf Association's unwavering commitment to nurturing elite athletes through comprehensive training programs that focus on technical precision, physical conditioning, and mental preparation — key factors in competing successfully on both regional and international stages. Sokolov's victory was defined by sharp course strategy, precise shot-making, and remarkable consistency in navigating challenging fairways and greens. Meanwhile, al-Kaabi's poise and experience under competitive pressure further demonstrated Qatar's depth of golfing talent. With this impressive result, Qatar continues to solidify its standing as a powerhouse in Arab golf, driven by the visionary leadership of the Qatar Golf Association and its dedication to developing homegrown players capable of excelling at the highest levels of the sport.



SERIE A

Paz fires high-flying Como to historic win over Juventus

AFP
Como, Italy

Rising star Nico Paz shone again for Como with a goal and assist in yesterday's landmark 2-0 win over Juventus, which lifted the traditionally tiny club up to sixth place in Serie A.

Argentina international Paz set up Marc-Oliver Kempf to sweep home in the fourth minute at the Stadio Giuseppe Sinigaglia, before making sure of Como's first win against Juve since 1952 with a wonderful individual goal with 12 minutes remaining.

Paz scampered down the right flank before cutting inside Andrea Cambiaso and curling a superb finish past Michele Di Gregorio, a goal which pushed Como above Juve on goal difference.

Owned by tobacco giant Djarum and coached by former Spain and Barcelona star Cesc Fabregas, ambitious Como are on 12 points from seven matches, only three behind the division's leading trio of Inter Milan, Napoli and Roma.

That gap to the summit will be increased to four points if fourth-placed AC Milan beat Fiorentina in Sunday's late match and move into top spot, but regardless Como are flying and it's largely down to Paz.

Paz, 21, was signed from Real Madrid in August last year and after an impressive debut season in Italy he has been a key part of Como's strong start to this campaign with four goals and as many assists.

"He's a great player, I'm not worried about his future because I can tell when a player is hungry, whether they have the right mentality to become a top player or whether they're a flash in the pan," said Fabregas to DAZN.

"He can go wherever he wants to go, he just needs to stay humble and keep his work ethic, because the talent and physical presence are there."

Fabregas, who was suspended on Sunday, watched his team claim a huge win in front of his old Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger.

"We spoke an hour before the game, all I can do is thank him because he was the coach that gave me my start in my career at 16 years old," added Fabregas.

"He believed in me in the same way that I believe in Nico Paz."

Paz's fine display on Sunday left Juve without a win since a dramatic victory over arch-rivals Inter just over a month ago.

Igor Tudor's Juve came into Sunday's lunchtime fixture unbeaten this season but on a run of five straight draws in all competitions.

Defeat ends a tough week for Juve who lost starting centre-back Gleison Bremer until the end of the year with a knee ligament tear and are under investigation by European governing body UEFA for financial fair play breaches.

And next week offers the huge task of Real Madrid at the Santiago Bernabeu, with Juve on two points following their first two matches in this season's Champions League.

"I'm always worried, that's the life of a coach," said Tudor when asked whether he was concerned for his job.

"You always think about the things you can do better and we'll talk about that in the dressing room."

Riccardo Orsolini helped move Bologna a point above Como and into fifth spot with his fifth goal of the season in a comfortable 2-0 win at Cagliari.

Italy winger Orsolini tops the Serie A scoring charts, one goal ahead of Paz and Milan's injured American attacker Christian Pulisic, after rattling home a long-range strike in the 80th minute in Sardinia.

Patrick Vieira's Genoa remain in the relegation zone after Maxwell Cornet had a penalty saved in the dying moments of their goalless draw with 10-man Parma.

Genoa, level on three points with bottom club Pisa, were booed off the pitch at the Stadio Luigi Ferraris after failing to score for the fourth time this season, this time against a team that had to play more than half the match a man down following Abdoulaye Ndiaye's second off.



Como's Argentinian midfielder Nico Paz celebrates after scoring his team's second goal during the Italian Serie A match against Juventus in Como yesterday. *(AFP)*