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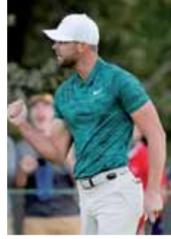
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F1 Page 4

Mission impossible for Vettel as Lewis dominates



GOLF | Page 7

Tway wins first PGA title as Snedeker fades away

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GULF TIMES SPORT



FOOTBALL

Hazard torn between new Chelsea contract and 'dream' Real move

Page 3

FOOTBALL

Mbappe nets four as PSG break 82-year-old record

'FANTASTIC, INCREDIBLE. IT WAS SUPER HARD IN THE FIRST HALF, IT WAS A CRAZY MATCH'



Paris St Germain's Kylian Mbappe celebrates with Marquinhos as Neymar charges down to join them during their Ligue 1 match against Lyon on Sunday night.

AFP
Paris

Kylian Mbappe tore Lyon to shreds with four goals as a 5-0 thrashing at the Parc des Princes saw Paris Saint-Germain set a new French top-flight record of nine straight wins to start a season.

Thomas Tuchel's Ligue 1 leaders broke the 82-year-old record of eight consecutive wins set by Olympique Lillois in 1936, having equalled the mark with their 3-0 victory at Nice last weekend.

"Fantastic, incredible. It was super hard in the first half, it was a crazy match," PSG coach Tuchel told Canal+.

A Neymar penalty gave PSG a ninth-minute advantage, but Presnel Kimpembe was sent off just after the half-hour mark to give Lyon hope.

Bruno Genesio's side threw away their man advantage, though, as Lucas Tousart was dismissed, and after missing a string of chances, the sensational Mbappe capped an virtuoso display by scoring four times in 13 minutes to seal history for PSG.

The capital-city giants, bidding for a sixth title in seven seasons, are already eight points clear of second-placed Lille at the top of the table, with Lyon five points further back in sixth.

Lyon endured the worst possible start to the match, as star man Nabil Fekir was forced off injured in the seventh minute, and the hosts were awarded a spot-kick just seconds later.

Mbappe raced to reach a loose ball, and visiting goalkeeper Anthony Lopes needlessly charged off his line to bring down the teenager. Neymar stepped up and sent Lopes the wrong way with a stuttering run-up to score his 11th goal of the season.

Lyon responded well, though, with veteran goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon having to shovel a Memphis Depay free-kick over the bar, before Di Maria was fortunate not to concede a penalty for handball.

The reigning champions thought they had got lucky again when Kimpembe was only shown a yellow card for a nasty tackle on

'I should have scored more'

Paris: Teenage sensation Kylian Mbappe insisted that he "should have scored more" despite netting four times in a magnificent individual display as Paris Saint-Germain thrashed Lyon yesterday.

The 19-year-old scored four goals in the space of 13 second-half minutes as a 5-0 victory saw PSG set a new French top-flight record of nine straight wins to start a season.

But Mbappe did miss several earlier chances as he was thrice denied when one-on-one with Lyon goalkeeper Anthony Lopes and struck the post before grabbing his first goal just after the hour mark. "I missed opportunities, I should have scored more," he told Canal+.

"I keep working and I never doubted. I knew I had the support of my team-mates. I often say that as long as an attacker is creating chances, everything is fine."

PSG are already eight points clear at the top of the table after breaking an 82-year-old record set by Olympique Lillois in 1936 as Mbappe looks to win the title for the third straight campaign after also lifting the trophy with Monaco in 2016-17.

"It was the work of the whole team, but the most important thing was the record," he added. "I insist we talk about the collective, we will have time to talk about me, Neymar. "We wanted to win, we wanted this record at all costs."

Tanguy Ndombele, but with the young midfielder lying stricken on the ground, a video review resulted in the centre-back's punishment being upgraded to red.

But Lyon shot themselves in the foot on the stroke of half-time as Tousart tripped Mbappe inside the PSG half and was given a second yellow card.

Lyon should have equalised early in the second period, but Maxwell Cornet contrived to miskick with the goal at his mercy.

Cornet, who came on for Fekir, almost scored in bizarre circumstances shortly after, as a Silva clearance ricocheted off his back and bounced back off the base of the post.

Mbappe almost put PSG out of sight three times in the space of five minutes – powering clear after Cornet's unwitting effort and drilling against the far post, seeing Lopes dive at his feet as he ran through one-on-one, and shooting too close to the Lyon 'keeper.

But the World Cup-winner's persistence finally paid off in the 61st minute as he latched onto the ball inside the area after Neymar had burst forward, turned his man and smashed the ball in off both posts.

Confidence was coursing

through PSG, and the floodgates opened as centre-back Marquinhos drove into the box and squared for Mbappe to stab in his eighth goal of the campaign.

Neymar soon sent the 19-year-old bearing down on goal yet again, and Mbappe lofted the ball into the net to complete an incredible eight-minute hat-trick.

He was not done there, though, as he pounced to slam home his fourth with 16 minutes left after Neymar had seen a low shot blocked.

Earlier on Sunday, 10-man Monaco slumped to a fifth defeat in nine Ligue 1 matches as former PSG outcast Hatem Ben Arfa earned Rennes a 2-1 victory with his first league goal since April 2016.

Leonardo Jardim's Monaco, runners-up to PSG last season, remain winless since the opening weekend and above the automatic relegation spots only on goal difference.

Elsewhere, ex-Japan coach Vahid Halilhodzic saw his Nantes side beaten 3-0 at Bordeaux on his return to French football, while Kostas Mitroglou and Florian Thauvin scored as Marseille climbed to third following a 2-0 victory over Caen.

WORLD GYMNASTICS

America's Biles returns to action in Doha after one-year break

By Sports Reporter
Doha

The 48th Artistic Gymnastics World Championships is going to be one of the fiercely contested editions in recent years as United States of America's **Simone Biles**, who took more than a year's break, will return to action at Doha's Aspire Dome from October 25 to November 3.

The tournament will be significant for the participating countries as medals won from the Team finals will earn an entry to the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo.

The nominative roster released last week includes 265 men and 244 wom-



en gymnasts from 78 nations.

Among the stars will be Japan's 2016 Olympic All-Around champions Kohei Uchimura, who pulled out from last year's edition in Montreal, Canada, following an injury during training session.

Meanwhile, 48 countries have entered for the men's while 44 have been registered in the women's category in the tournament – first qualification event for the Tokyo Games.

The medal-winning nations in the Team Final competition will earn automatic berths for 2020 Olympics while top 24 nations from team qualification will advance full teams to the 2019 World Championships in Stuttgart, Germany.

Other nations will have additional

chances to qualify at competitions in 2019 and 2020.

Countries will earn Olympic qualification spots

Interestingly, this year's competition marks the first time in 44 years that nations can earn Olympic qualification spots a full two years prior to the Olympic Games. Since 1979, all Olympic gymnastics qualification has taken place in the year immediately preceding the next Olympic Games.

The Japanese men and American men are the reigning champions from both the 2015 World Championships in Glasgow and 2016 Rio Olympic Games.

Can Japan retain team title?

Japan will hope to defend their crown amid strong challenges from China.

Kenzo Shirai, who won the men's All-Around title in Montreal last year, and Yusuke Tanaka, Uchimura's team-mates in Glasgow and Rio, are back along with 2015 team member Kazuma Kaya and newcomer Wataru Tanigawa. His younger brother Kakeru Tanigawa, who upset Uchimura at Japan's national championships earlier this year, is the team alternate.

Meanwhile, in the women's group, Simone Biles, who led USA to team victories at the 2014 Worlds in Nanning, China, Glasgow and Rio, is the only member from those squads back in 2018. She will be joined by world All-Around champion Morgan Hurd and world championships debutantes Kara Eaker, Grace McCallum and Riley McCusker, with Shilese Jones the alternate.

SPOTLIGHT

Modric vs Ronaldo rematch as Ballon d'Or nominees unveiled

Messi, Salah, Bale and De Bruyne also feature among a list of familiar names

AFP
Paris

FIFA best player of the year Luka Modric remains on track for a second major award after he was named yesterday among 30 nominees for the Ballon d'Or alongside the likes of ex-Real Madrid teammate Cristiano Ronaldo, Barcelona's Lionel Messi and Liverpool's Mohamed Salah.

Modric, a World Cup runner-up with Croatia, beat Juventus' Ronaldo and Salah to win the FIFA prize last month after Messi was surprisingly left off the final three-man list. Ronaldo, currently facing allegations of rape dating back to 2009 that he strenuously denies, has already won the Ballon d'Or five times and is the current holder of the award.

Messi has also won the award on five occasions. FIFA split from the Ballon d'Or in 2016 to launch its own set of awards. The winner of the prestigious Ballon d'Or organised by France Football magazine will be announced on December 3.

Real Madrid and Wales forward Gareth Bale and Manchester City's Belgium midfielder Kevin De Bruyne also featured among a list of familiar names. Bale, who scored two goals in Real's triumph in the final of the Champions League against Liverpool including a spectacular overhead kick, is joined by club teammates Karim Benzema, Raphael Varane, Isco, Marcelo and Sergio Ramos.

De Bruyne was nominated for helping City win the Premier League and Belgium reach the World Cup semi-finals. Antoine Griezmann, a World Cup winner with France and Europa League champion at Atletico Madrid, is nominated alongside international teammates, Chelsea midfielder N'Golo Kante, Manchester United's Paul Pogba and PSG's Kylian Mbappe.

Eden Hazard gives Chelsea another player in the running after starring alongside De Bruyne at the World Cup, with England's Golden Boot winner Harry Kane also included.

Manchester City forward Sergio Aguerro and PSG's Neymar are nominated as are two other prolific South



Cristiano Ronaldo and Luka Modric (right).

American strikers: Uruguayans Edinson Cavani of PSG and Luis Suarez of Barcelona. Liverpool's Brazilian forward Roberto Firmino and Uruguay's rugged defender Diego Godin of Atletico Madrid also got the nod.

Four goalkeepers are also among the 30 – Thibaut Courtois of Belgium and Real Madrid, Liverpool and Brazil stopper Alisson Becker, Tottenham's France World Cup winner Hugo Lloris and Atletico's Jan Oblak. Also making the cut are Juve's Mario Mandzukic and Liverpool's Sadio Mane, while Barcelona are also represented by Croat defender Ivan Rakitic.

For the first time, a Ballon d'Or for women players will be awarded this year, with Champions League winners Lyon accounting for seven of

the 15 nominees. France international Amandine Henry, Amel Majri and Wendie Renard are joined on the list by Germany's Dzsenifer Marozsan, England's Lucy Bronze, Ada Hegerberg of Norway and Japan defender Saki Kumagai.

Brazil's Marta, crowned best women's player for a record sixth time at last month's FIFA awards, is also in contention after her role in winning the Copa America. Other nominees are Perrille Harder, Lindsey Horan, Fran Kirby, Sam Kerr, Lieke Martens, Megan Rapinoe and Christine Sinclair.

In another first, the best under-21 player will receive the Kopa Trophy. Kylian Mbappe, the Paris Saint-Germain striker who burst onto the global scene with his performances as France



won the World Cup, is the favourite. The Ballon d'Or, which was first won by Englishman Stanley Matthews in 1956, is decided by a ballot of journalists from around the world.

LISTS OF NOMINEES FOR BALLON D'OR AWARD
Men's nominees (30): Sergio Aguerro, Alisson Becker, Gareth Bale, Karim Benzema, Edinson Cavani, Thibaut Courtois, Cristiano Ronaldo, Kevin De Bruyne, Roberto Firmino, Diego Godin, Antoine Griezmann, Eden Hazard, Isco,

Harry Kane, N'Golo Kante, Hugo Lloris, Mario Mandzukic, Sadio Mane, Marcelo, Kylian Mbappe, Lionel Messi, Luka Modric, Neymar, Jan Oblak, Paul Pogba, Ivan Rakitic, Sergio Ramos, Mohamed Salah, Luis Suarez, Raphael Varane.

Women's nominees (15): Amandine Henry, Amel Majri, Wendie Renard, Dzsenifer Marozsan, Lucy Bronze, Ada Hegerberg, Saki Kumagai, Marta, Perrille Harder, Lindsey Horan, Fran Kirby, Sam Kerr, Lieke Martens, Megan Rapinoe, Christine Sinclair

Arsenal sign new kit deal with Adidas

Arsenal have signed a new kit deal with German sportswear firm Adidas starting in July, 2019. Adidas will take over from Puma, whose five-year contract with the north London club expires at the end of the season. The new deal is worth 300m pounds over five years until 2024. A 60 million-pound per season deal would put Arsenal third in the most lucrative kit deals in football, behind Barcelona's contract with American company Nike and Manchester United's with Adidas which are worth 140m and 75m pounds-a-year respectively. It signals the end of Arsenal's five-year association with Puma which came after two decades with Nike.

Moura recalled to Brazil squad after two years

Brazil have called up Tottenham Hotspur forward Lucas Moura for friendlies against Saudi Arabia and Argentina, national team coordinator Edu Gaspar said yesterday. Moura, 26, last played for Brazil two years ago and has made only three substitute appearances in five years for the five-times world champions. The pacy winger replaces Gremio forward Everton, who withdrew from the squad with a thigh strain. Brazil play Saudi Arabia in Riyadh on Friday and then travel to Jeddah to face rivals Argentina four days later.

Klopp blasts 'senseless' Nations League

Jürgen Klopp has branded the UEFA Nations League "the most senseless competition in the world" as he prepares to see many of his squad leave on international duty following Liverpool's drab 0-0 draw with Manchester City. The two sides – along with Chelsea – are all locked on 20 points at the top of the Premier League table, separated only by goal difference. Klopp is pleased a hectic schedule of seven matches in 23 days is now over but is unsure what the next fortnight will bring for his players. Klopp said players need a proper break to be fresher, pointing to the case of Jordan Henderson who played for England at the World Cup in Russia.

Real striker Benzema suffers hamstring injury

Real Madrid forward Karim Benzema has suffered a hamstring injury which Spanish media have reported could keep the Frenchman out of action for two weeks. "Following tests carried out today on our player Karim Benzema by the Real Madrid medical team, he has been diagnosed with an injury to his right hamstring," the European champions said in a statement without Benzema joins Marcelo, Isco and Dani Carvajal on the sidelines at the Santiago Bernabeu, with Real having gone four games without scoring in all competitions, but the Frenchman should return before the Clasico against Barcelona on Oct. 28. The 30-year-old has netted five goals this season but has failed to score in his last seven appearances.

BUNDESLIGA

Kovacic already in trouble at stuttering Bayern Munich

AFP
Berlin

Bayern Munich coach **Niko Kovacic** is already under pressure after four matches without a win and he is acutely aware that the German champions are not a club that deals well with failure.

Kovacic only took over at Bayern in the summer and was portrayed as a long-term leader after the venerable Jupp Heynckes had successfully steered the ship for a season on a temporary basis after Carlo Ancelotti was sacked.

The 46-year-old's reputation had risen after he won the German Cup with Eintracht Frankfurt in May, beating Bayern in the final. But Bayern's 3-0 home defeat to Borussia Moenchengladbach has left his team sixth in the table – the last time the club went winless in four matches in the first half of the season was 2009. After Saturday's loss, Kovacic faced the inevitable questions about his future. "I know how football works, and the mechanics of the Bundesliga and Bayern," the German-born Croat said. "And I know that you get less time at Bayern than elsewhere."

Kovacic had moved quickly on Friday to defuse criticism from his players, with Colombian striker James Rodriguez telling reporters that the new coach's training sessions were insufficiently rigorous and his policy of rotating his team was angering some of the stars. "We're not at Frankfurt here," Rodriguez jibed.

Kovacic's response then was to deny that he had lost his players' support – but that was before the Moenchengladbach debacle. Pressed on whether he still had their backing now, Kovacic said on Saturday: "I had their support after the first seven games (when Bayern were undefeated), so I assume I still have it. But in the end, I am not the one who can answer that."

Bayern's bosses Uli Hoeness and Karl-Heinz Rummenigge left the Allianz Arena without saying a word. A year ago, the powerful duo removed Ancelotti from his job after Bayern lost 3-0 to Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League.

Even if they decide that Kovacic has no future with the club, their options seem limited – find-



ing a top-class coach at this time of the year is near-impossible and Heynckes has made clear he would not return again.

Bayern's winless run is all the more curious because it has come against teams they would be expected to beat – Augsburg, Hertha Berlin, Dutch side Ajax and Moenchengladbach. Right-back Joshua Kimmich said a lack of creativity was to blame: "The defence is not a major problem. Against Moenchengladbach we hardly created a single chance. It's not that we have trouble getting it in the net, it's that we don't have a chance to! We're Bayern Munich, we should be scoring two or three goals every time."

Kovacic has a temporary respite thanks to the two-week international break. "It's my job to change that," he said. "I'm going to buckle down during the international matches. It's obviously a pity that so many players are leaving on Sunday to join up with their national teams. But that could be a positive thing too, it'll give them a change of scene." When club football resumes, Kovacic faces three away games in a row – Bundesliga trips to Wolfsburg on October 20 and Mainz a week later with a potentially treacherous Champions League visit to AEK Athens sandwiched in between on October 23.

LA LIGA

Barca held at Valencia as Sevilla go top

AFP
Madrid

Sevilla are the surprise leaders in La Liga after Lionel Messi could only rescue a draw for Barcelona away to Valencia on Sunday night. Barca started the day at the top of the pile and then Atletico Madrid enjoyed a couple of hours at the summit after edging past Real Betis at the Wanda Metropolitano.

Sevilla, however, usurped them both by beating 10-man Celta Vigo and Barca were unable to reclaim the lead in the late kick-off, held by Valencia to a 1-1 draw at the Mestalla.

It means Ernesto Valverde's side are a point behind Sevilla and without a league victory now in four matches, a dip that comes in stark contrast to their enthralling triumph over Tottenham in the Champions League on Wednesday.

Messi, mesmeric at Wembley, was on target again, his driven shot into the corner cancelling out a bizarre opener for Valencia, scored after just 78 seconds. Ezequiel Garay claimed the final touch but Daniel Parejo's corner had been flicked on by Geoffrey Kondogbia, missed by Thomas Vermaelen and skimmed through off Gerard Pique's back.

Philippe Coutinho should have won it for Barcelona in the second half but took too long to pull the trigger and Jose Gaya was able to make the block. "When we don't win we always think of it as two points lost," Valverde said. "After Leo's goal, we tried everything but they defended well and we couldn't get the goal we wanted."



Valencia's Ezequiel Garay celebrates after scoring against Barcelona on Sunday night. (AFP)

For Valencia, now unbeaten in six, this was another step in the right direction, even if they are finding it difficult to turn draws into wins.

They move up to 14th. "Leaving Barca for 90 minutes practically without a chance means that we have worked very well," Valencia coach Marcelino said.

Atletico and Sevilla's success also pushed struggling Real Madrid down to fourth. Julen Lopetegui's side endured a shock defeat away by Alaves on Saturday. For all the talk of crisis at the top two clubs, however, this was Sevilla's day.

Pablo Sarabia headed in to open the scoring at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan before Celta defender Nestor Araujo was sent off for picking up two yellow cards in

as many minutes. Wissam Ben Yedder doubled the lead and while substitute Sofiane Boufal pulled one back for Celta, it proved too little to late. The victory is Sevilla's fourth on the bounce in the league. "At the moment we are playing with a lot of confidence," Ben Yedder said. "We are showing we can be consistent."

Atletico had earlier continued their own strong run after Angel Correa's goal proved decisive in an untidy 1-0 win over Real Betis. Atletico sat seven points behind Real and Barca after winning only one of their opening four league games but as their rivals have stumbled, Diego Simeone's side have sprung into form. "We look at everything quietly and continue to improve," Simeone said.

"We have grown." Simeone can take some of the credit too for the latest victory, after throwing on both Correa and Thomas Partey as substitutes in the second half. Thomas provided the assist.

The contest was billed as a classic clash of styles, with Atletico's stubborn defence up against the free-flowing Real Betis, who lit up the league last season with their flurry of goals. "A great coach once said, the best Plan B is always to do Plan A better," said Betis coach Quique Setien.

They could also have gone top with a win, such is the scrunched nature of the top half, but instead Betis slip to eighth. "We have less points than our performances deserve," Setien added.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Chelsea's Hazard still keen on 'dream' Real Madrid move

'Real Madrid is the best club in the world. I don't want to lie today'

By Jacob Steinberg
The Guardian

Eden Hazard has cast fresh doubt over his future after revealing that he is torn between signing a new contract at Chelsea and pursuing his dream of playing for Real Madrid.

The Belgian forward, who has less than two years left on his deal, admitted that he did not know where his heart would lead him. Although he reiterated his desire to play for Madrid at some stage, it is not a given that he will push for a transfer next summer.

Hazard has made it clear he is happy at Chelsea, who hope to secure him on new terms worth around £300,000 a week, and he is determined not to go down the same path as his international team-mate Thibaut Courtois, who fell out with the Stamford Bridge hierarchy before moving to Madrid two months ago.

"I don't want that," Hazard said. "I want what's good for me, but I want what's good for the club because the club has given me everything. I don't want to say: 'Yes, I am signing a new contract' and then in the end I don't end up signing. So I will see. Sometimes in my head, I wake up in the morning and think I want to go. Sometimes I think I want to stay. It is a hard decision. It is my future. I am 27 and I will turn 28 in January."

Hazard, who scored his eighth goal of the season in Chelsea's 3-0 victory over Southampton on Sunday, agreed that he probably had one big move left. "That's why I spoke after the World Cup and I said that I think it is time to change because I played a great World Cup," he said.

"I am really in the game, I am playing good football at the moment. Real Madrid is the best club in the world. I don't want to lie today. It is my dream since I was a kid. I was dreaming about this club. We will see. I don't want to talk about this every day. I don't have time but we will talk about my future soon. I think so."

Chelsea, who are level on points with Liverpool and Manchester City at the top of the Premier League, are desperate not to lose Hazard. He has helped them win two league titles, the FA Cup, the League Cup and the Europa League since joining from Lille six years ago and he is thriving under Maurizio Sarri, who replaced Antonio Conte as manager in July.

However Hazard found himself questioning Chelsea's ambition after their failure to qualify for this season's Champions League and he admitted that Madrid, who had just sold Cristiano Ronaldo to Juventus, were his preferred destination after helping Belgium finish third at



Eden Hazard scored his eighth goal of the season in Chelsea's 3-0 victory over Southampton on Sunday. (Reuters)

the World Cup. He has not been put off by the Bernabéu club's poor form under Julen Lopetegui, who is under pressure after four games without a win.

"It is also when you have a dream and you want to make it happen," Hazard said. "It is like I have said a lot of times: if I leave I will be happy; I know if I stay I will be happy. It is not like if I go I am happy and if I stay that I am unhappy."

Reports in Spain have suggested that Paris Saint-Germain's Neymar remains Madrid's favoured choice to replace Ronaldo, which could force Hazard to change his stance. Although he opted not to open negotiations over a new deal last season, he will resume formal talks when Chelsea are ready. "I could talk now," he said. "If they come to me, then I will talk. I don't want to say that I am not talking with the

club or the owner. I am talking a lot with them."

For all his admiration of Madrid, Hazard hinted that Chelsea might not have to do much to convince him to stay. "I am happy and I don't need anything," he said. "It is not trophies. Of course, when you play, you want to win but I just want to enjoy things on the pitch, like I am at the moment. Then I am happy."

QNB STARS LEAGUE

Referee error led to loss against Saliya: Sadd coach Ferreira

By Sports Reporter
Doha

Al Sadd head coach Jesualdo Ferreira blamed the assistant referee after his side dropped two points in their QNB Stars League match against Al Saliya in a 1-1 draw on Sunday.

Tournament top scorer Baghdad Bounedjah netted Sadd's goal in the 66th minute of the fast-paced game, where Saliya put up a stiff resistance against their fancied opponents. Saliya drew parity when Abdulqadir Ilyas converted from the penalty spot in the 88th minute. Al Sadd thus lost the leaders' position to Al Duhail, who have 19 points, two more than The Wolves. Ferreira said: "As I said before the game, this was going to be tough for us, especially after the defeat in the Champions League. Sadd lost the three points because of a wrong penalty decision."

"I won't blame the referee but the linesman made a mistake. Unfortunately, these mistakes have happened in many Sadd matches and I wasn't surprised by the wrong penalty call. When this person officiates either as the main referee or as a linesman, Sadd haven't been lucky."

Ferreira continued his rant against the referee, saying: "Throughout the time I have been in Doha, I haven't been lucky with this referee around. I don't think he has anything against us but I don't know why we haven't been lucky when he is officiating. Refereeing errors denied Al Sadd the win today and also a draw against Persepolis

because there was a penalty on Bounedjah that was not given."

As for his players' performance against Saliya, Ferreira said: "My team needs to be quicker in scoring goals. Unfortunately, it did not happen and we found ourselves under pressure from Saliya, making things difficult for the team. Sadd was not at full strength but Saliya were a strong team. Also, there was a lot of fatigue because of the Persepolis game. We promise the fans that things will be different in the upcoming games."

Meanwhile, Al Duhail Coach Nabil Maaloul expressed his happiness after the win over Umm Salal. "I am very happy with the victory and the performance of the players. The changes that happened in the team's list because of injuries of the players, showed the real strength of Al Duhail as every player was able to enter the main list and perform very well"

Nam Tae-Hee (13th minute) and Almoez Ali (90+3) scored the goals for the hosts who took their points to 19. In the process, they registered their sixth victory. The only occasion they dropped points was when they were held by Al Rayyan. Al Duhail dominated possession (57 per cent). Naturally, they forced more corner kicks (seven as against Umm Salal's three).

Al Duhail created more chances throughout. Umm Salal showed more alacrity in the second half during which they were unlucky not to have scored a goal that would have helped them pull off a draw and a valuable point as the rivals struck a second time at the fag end of the game.



Al Sadd head coach Jesualdo Ferreira.

SPOTLIGHT

Former England captain Terry retires

AFP
London

Former England captain John Terry announced his retirement from football on Sunday with the 37-year-old central defender now set to pursue a career in management. Terry, who spent the bulk of his career with Chelsea, captained second-tier Aston Villa last season.

Now the Birmingham club reportedly want him to join their coaching staff as part of a new-look set-up, with Thierry Henry in the running to take over as manager at Villa Park after Steve Bruce was sacked earlier this week.

"After 23 incredible years as a footballer, I have decided now is the right time to retire from playing," Terry said in a message posted on his Instagram account. Terry, capped 78 times by England, recently rejected a chance to play for Spartak Moscow, saying a move to Russia was not right for his family.

His last game as a professional was Villa's 1-0 Championship play-off final defeat by Fulham in May — a loss that denied Villa a return to the Premier League. But his club career will be best remembered for his time at Chelsea where he won five Premier League titles, five FA Cups, as well as the Champions League and Europa League, although he did not play in the two European finals.

"As a 14-year-old, I made my best and biggest decision: to sign for Chelsea Football Club," added Terry, who also thanked his family for their support. "Words will never be enough to show how much everyone at the club means to me, in particular the fans...I hope I have done you all proud wearing the shirt and the armband."

He also referenced his time at Villa by saying: "It was a privilege to represent such a renowned football club with great fans. I



Defender John Terry (centre), who spent the bulk of his career with Chelsea, captained second-tier Aston Villa last season. (Reuters)

look forward to the next chapter in my life and the challenges ahead."

Terry made 717 appearances for Chelsea, scoring 67 goals, and was widely regarded as one of the best English centre-halves of his generation. But in 2011 he was accused of racially abusing Anton Ferdinand, the brother of Terry's England central defensive partner Rio Ferdinand, during a west London derby against Queens Park Rangers.

Terry was absolved of criminal charges during a 2012 court case. But the Football Association, who had stripped Terry of the

England captaincy while they waited for the case to be resolved, subsequently imposed a four-game ban and fine on the defender.

The decision by the FA, English football's governing body, to pursue disciplinary action after the court case led to Terry's retirement from international football.

Meanwhile Terry was widely ridiculed when, after Chelsea beat Bayern Munich to win the 2012 Champions League final, he appeared in full playing kit for the post-match celebrations despite not taking part in the game because of suspension.

FOCUS

Rayyan, Arruabarrena part ways

By Sports Reporter
Doha

Al Rayyan parted ways with Argentinian **Rodolfo Arruabarrena** and handed over the reins to their Under-23 coach Yuri O de Souza. The decision was taken by mutual consent as Arruabarrena, who was appointed at the beginning of this season, failed to improve the team's performance after eight games into this season's QNB Stars League.

Al Rayyan had suffered a 0-5 defeat at the hands of Al Sadd in the Qatar Clasic in Week 6 and last week's 0-1 loss to bottom side Al Khor made matters worse. Al Rayyan are fourth in the standings with 14 points, after Al Duhail (19), Al Sadd (17) and Al Saliya (16).

"We did not perform well. It was a tight match we did not fight the ball and did not move the ball well, so we lost. I am not looking for excuses but we played with only one professional player," said Arruabarrena on Saturday and on Sunday after a meeting

with the team management he said he was leaving the post.

The club announced that Brazilian Souza would lead the team starting from the training session as they prepare for their QSL Cup second-round match against Al Sadd on Saturday. Al Rayyan are in Group B that also includes Al Ahli, Al Saliya, Al Shahania and Al Khor. Meanwhile, Al Arabi also changed their coach as Hatem al-Moaddeb, who was with the Under-23 side, replaced Luka Bonacic. Arabi, who lost 0-3 to Al Gharafa are sixth in the table with 12 points.

TONELLI, PICCINI GET ITALY CALL UP

Milan: Italy coach Roberto Mancini yesterday called up defenders Cristiano Piccini and Lorenzo Tonelli for the first time to replace injured trio Danilo D'Ambrosio, Patrick Cutrone and Alessio Romagnoli for internationals against the Ukraine and Poland this week.

The Azzurri take on Ukraine in a friendly in Genoa tomorrow, before playing Poland in the Nations League in Chorzow four days later. Piccini, 26, who has played outside Italy since 2014, joined Spanish club Valencia from Sporting Lisbon this season. Tonelli, 28, has impressed since his loan move from Napoli to Sampdoria this year. Italy are third in their group with just

one point, after failing to win their first two games against European champions Portugal and Poland.

Nice forward Mario Balotelli and Torino striker Andrea Belotti have been left out with Mancini saying they lacked form.

ITALY SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Alessio Cragno (Cagliari), Gianluigi Donnarumma (AC Milan), Mattia Perin (Juventus), Salvatore Sirigu (Torino)

Defenders: Francesco Acerbi (Lazio), Cristiano Biraghi (Fiorentina), Leonardo Bonucci (Juventus), Giorgio Chiellini (Juventus), Domenico Criscito (Genoa), Emerson Palmieri (Dos

Santos (Chelsea/ENG), Alessandro Florenzi (Roma), Cristiano Piccini (Valencia/ESP), Lorenzo Tonelli (Sampdoria)

Midfielders: Nicolò Barella (Cagliari), Federico Bernardeschi (Juventus), Giacomo Bonaventura (AC Milan), Roberto Gagliardini (Inter Milan), Frello Filho Jorge Luiz Jorginho (Chelsea/ENG), Lorenzo Pellegrini (Roma), Marco Verratti (Paris Saint Germain/FRA)

Forwards: Domenico Berardi (Sassuolo), Gianluca Caprari (Sampdoria), Federico Chiesa (Fiorentina), Sebastian Ings (Toronto FC/CAN), Ciro Immobile (Lazio), Lorenzo Insigne (Napoli), Simone Zaza (Torino)

F1

Mission impossible for Vettel as Hamilton nears fifth title

Vettel is now 67 points behind his Mercedes rival with four races - worth a maximum 100 points - to go

Reuters
Suzuka, Japan

Even *Mission Impossible* star Tom Cruise would balk at the task facing Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel after Sunday's Japanese Grand Prix. The German's hopes of winning a fifth Formula One title this season moved away from slim and closer to non-existent at Suzuka.

Lewis Hamilton's pole-to-flag victory, the Briton's sixth win in seven races and ninth of the season, delivered another hammer blow to a rival whose challenge has swiftly self-destructed.

Vettel is now 67 points behind his Mercedes rival with four races - worth a maximum 100 points - to go. The battle between the two four-times champions looks effectively over, even if there is still fighting talk from Maranello.

"I know that the situation looks impossible," Ferrari team boss Maurizio Arrivabene said. "But our job sometimes is to challenge the impossible. This is what we are going to do and we try to do for the future four races."

In fact, it could all be over in two weeks' time at the US Grand Prix in Austin, where a win with Vettel finishing lower than second is all Hamilton needs to seal the deal with three races to spare. "You say nearly (done), so obviously there is still a chance," said Vettel, cutting a resigned figure as he spoke to reporters.

"At the last couple of races we made



Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel led the championship by eight points back in July but Lewis Hamilton has won six of the seven races since then. (AFP)

it a bit too easy for them but also credit to them as they executed well, which is the name of the game. We need to look after ourselves and do our bit the next couple of races and then we see."

Ferrari's campaign has unravelled

spectacularly as the season has worn on, with what appeared set to be a titanic battle of two four-time champions instead turning into a one-horse race. Mistakes from both Vettel and the Italian team, as well as strategy

blunders such as a failed tyre gamble in qualifying at Suzuka, have cost them dear.

They no longer have the fastest car, with Mercedes locking out the front row and finishing in one-two formation

in the last two races. Hamilton is also in the form of his life and has to be favourite for victory again in Austin, where he has won every race bar one since the Texan track joined the calendar in 2012.

Vettel's highest finish since his win in

Belgium at the end of August has been third and he will need to win at least the next two, with Hamilton failing to score, for any miracle to look remotely possible.

Still, neither Mercedes nor Hamilton are taking anything for granted. "A DNF (non-finish) and the consequent bad result suddenly wipes off a large chunk of your points," said Mercedes boss Toto Wolff. "I know from the probability standpoint it doesn't look likely, but this is motor racing. I've seen many black swans swimming across the pond in my life... that's why I'd rather wait until it's really done."

Wolff revealed he's living in dread of Hamilton suffering a 'freak' injury - especially to one of his fingers.

"Absolutely freak incidents happen everywhere," said the Austrian. "I don't want to even think about him breaking a finger!"

Wolff warned against complacency. "It's important to stay concentrated," insisted Wolff. "You either have the trophy in your hands or you don't - and we haven't got it in our hands."

Hamilton was cock-a-hoop after leading a Mercedes one-two for his sixth win in seven races and fourth in a row. It was also his 71st Formula One victory and 50th for the Silver Arrows.

Standing over his car, the Briton said: "Austin is usually a good track for us, so I can't wait to unleash this beast there."

Hamilton will back himself to claim a 10th victory of the season in the United States, where he has won every race but one since 2012.

TENNIS

Coric ousts Wawrinka, Klahn stuns Kyrgios

Reuters
Shanghai

Croatian Borna Coric recovered from a set down to beat three-time Grand Slam winner Stan Wawrinka 4-6 6-4 6-3 in the opening round of the Shanghai Masters yesterday, Coric, who had failed to win a match in his last two appearances in Beijing and Shenzhen, saved two break points at 3-3 in the second set and clinched the first four games of the decider to record his 32nd match win of the season.

It was Coric's first victory in four meetings against former world number three Wawrinka, who has struggled on his return from knee surgery this season and entered as a wildcard. Coric, seeded 13th, will next face American qualifier Bradley Klahn, who claimed a hard-fought 4-6 6-4 6-3 win over Nick Kyrgios. The 23-year-old Australian Kyrgios lost five straight games from 4-4 in the second set to hand the momentum to Klahn. World number 104 Klahn, who fired down 18 aces, recorded just his fourth four-level win of the season.

Greek youngster Stefanos Tsitsipas, whose run to the quarter-finals in Tokyo last week was enough to book a place at the ATP Finals in November, opened his Shanghai campaign with a 7-6(4) 4-6 6-4 win over Gael Monfils. The 20-year-old broke the Frenchman's serve twice in the decider to set up a second round meeting with Russian Karen Khachanov.

Canadian Milos Raonic suffered an early exit as the 2016 Wimbledon finalist lost to American qualifier Mackenzie McDonald 6-3 5-7 6-3. Big-serving American Sam Querrey struck 14 aces on his way to a 6-3 6-4 win over world number 16 Diego Schwartzman and set up a second round meeting against his compatriot Taylor Fritz, who beat Robin Haase 6-3 7-6(3).

Results (x denotes seed): 1st round: Roberto



Borna Coric celebrates his win over Stan Wawrinka at the Shanghai Masters. (AFP)

Bautista (ESP) bt Andrey Rublev (RUS) 6-3, 6-4; Mackenzie McDonald (USA) bt Milos Raonic (CAN x14) 6-3, 5-7, 6-3; Sam Querrey (USA) bt Diego Schwartzman (ARG x9) 6-3, 6-4; Taylor Fritz (USA) bt Robin Haase (NED) 6-3, 7-6 (7/3); Bradley Klahn (USA) bt Nick Kyrgios (AUS) 4-6, 6-4, 6-3; Borna Coric (CRO x13) bt Stanislas Wawrinka (SUI) 4-6, 6-4, 6-3; Marton Fucsovics (HUN) bt Damir Dzumhur (BIH) 6-3, 6-4; Matthew Ebden (AUS) bt Frances Tiafoe (USA) 3-6, 6-4, 6-3; Andreas Seppi (ITA) bt Adrian Mannarino (FRA) 6-4, 6-4; Stefanos Tsitsipas (GRE x10) bt Gael Monfils (FRA) 7-6 (7/4), 4-6, 6-4; Marco Cecchinato (ITA x16) bt Gilles Simon (FRA) 6-7 (4/7), 6-4, 7-6 (7/2)

NADAL STILL UNTRUBLED ATOP ATP RANKINGS

Spain's Rafael Nadal maintained his comfortable lead in the latest ATP tennis rankings released yesterday ahead of second-placed Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic in third place. Only one change affected the top 10 with Kevin Anderson of South Africa moving from ninth to eighth place while the biggest winner of the week was Georgia's giant-killer Nikoloz Basilashvili. The unseeded Georgian rose 11 places to 23rd in the rankings after beating world number four Juan Martin Del Potro in a shock China Open win.

Latest ATP rankings: 1. Rafael Nadal (ESP) 8260 pts; 2. Roger Federer (SUI) 6900; 3. Novak Djokovic (SRB) 6445; 4. Juan Martin Del Potro (ARG) 6130; 5. Alexander Zverev (GER) 4755; 6. Marin Cilic (CRO) 4535; 7. Dominic Thiem (AUT) 3825; 8. Kevin Anderson (RSA) 3640 (+1); 9. Grigor Dimitrov (BUL) 3620 (-1); 10. John Isner (USA) 3380

THREE THAI CHAIR UMPIRES HANDED LIFE BANS FOR MATCH-FIXING

Three Thai chair umpires have been handed life bans for match-fixing and betting offences, the Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU) said. The TIU said the three had admitted to betting on tennis matches at ITF Futures tournaments at which they were officiating last year.

"They also manipulated scores inputted into the official scoring system, for betting-related purposes and personal profit," it said in a statement. The three were named as Anucha Tongplew, Apisit Promchai and Chitchai Srililai.

The ITU said the lifetime bans were effective immediately and prohibit each "from ever officiating at, or attending, any sanctioned events organised or recognised by the governing bodies of the sport."

YOUTH OLYMPICS

Qatar's al-Khulaifi misses out on 100m butterfly final



Qatari swimmer Yacob al-Khulaifi in action during the 100m butterfly at the Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on Sunday night.

By Our Correspondent
Buenos Aires

Qatari swimmer Yacob al-Khulaifi failed to qualify for the final of the 100m butterfly at the Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on Sunday night. Al-Khulaifi finished second in his heats in a time of 57.09 seconds, but that wasn't enough for the youngster to secure a place in the final. However, al-Khulaifi was pleased with his performance. "Thank God, I am happy with the timing that I achieved, which is close to the

standard mark," he said.

Youth Olympics is an opportunity for young athletes to gain experience as they see to make it to the senior grade, with many hoping to take part in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.

Al-Khulaifi was the Qatar's flagbearer at the opening ceremony on Saturday. The 17-year-old qualified for the event on the basis of his strong performances at the Sarajevo International Swimming Championships in Bosnia and Herzegovina this year where he won the 50m butterfly gold and a silver in the 200m freestyle. He also clocked good times during the recent FINA

World Cup in Doha.

Other athletes representing Qatar in Buenos Aires are hurdler Awab Baro, discus thrower Ahmed al-Haj, swimmer Abdul Aziz Mohamed and Equestrian rider Mohamed al-Kashouti.

In China, 23 athletes represented Qatar in handball, equestrian, shooting, swimming, table tennis as well as athletics. The first edition of the Games, which was held in Singapore eight years ago, saw the participation of six Qatari athletes. Over 4,000 athletes from 206 National Olympic Committees are competing in the Youth Olympic Games being held for the third time.

FOCUS

Pliskova sees off Lepchenko in Tianjin

Agencies
Tianjin, China

Former world number one Karolina Pliskova overcame unseeded Varvara Lepchenko 6-2 6-7(3) 6-3 in her opening-round match at the Tianjin Open yesterday. The 26-year-old Pliskova, who took a wildcard entry into the tournament as she aims to qualify for the season-ending WTA Finals in Singapore, eased through the first set but Lepchenko's aggressive forehand caused her problems in the second and the American won the tiebreaker to force a decider.

Top seed Pliskova will next face Slovenian Polona Hercog, who beat Spain's Lara Arruabarrena 7-6(5) 6-2. Pliskova is chasing one of the three available spots in the WTA Finals, along with fourth seed Aryna Sabalenka, Sloane Stephens, Elina Svitolina and Kiki Bertens. 1st round Results: Karolina Pliskova (CZE x1) bt Varvara Lepchenko (USA) 6-2, 6-7 (3/7), 6-3;

Polona Hercog (SLO) bt Lara Arruabarrena (ESP) 7-6 (7/5), 6-2; Magda Linette (POL) bt Evgeniya Rodina (RUS) 2-6, 6-1, 6-4; Hsieh Su-Wei (TPE x5) bt Ajla Tomljanovic (AUS) 7-6 (7/4), 7-5; Veronika Kudermetova (RUS) bt Alison Riske (USA) 5-7, 6-1, 7-5; Petra Martic (CRO x6) bt Duan Yingying (CHN) 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7/3); Liu Fangzhou (CHN) bt Yuan Yue (CHN) 6-0, 1-6, 6-4

OSTAPENKO KNOCKED OUT BY KUCOVA

Former French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko was sensationally dumped out of the Hong Kong Open yesterday - by a player ranked 299 places below her.

The Latvian world number 18 crashed out in three sets against outsider Kristina Kucova - who before yesterday had not had a WTA main draw in more than a year - in the first round.

Earlier, France's Alize Cornet swept into the second round. The eighth seed brushed aside Israel's Julia Glushko 6-1, 6-2, to record her first victory in more than a month after a string of first round exits in Chinese tournaments.

1st round Results: Viktoriya Tomova (BUL) bt Dalila Jakupovic (SLO) 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 (7/3); Dayana Yastremska (UKR) bt Fanny Stollar (HUN) 6-4, 6-4; Alize Cornet (FRA x8) bt Julia Glushko (ISR) 6-1, 6-2; Luksika Kumkhum (THA) bt Jennifer Brady (USA) 6-1, 7-6 (7/5); Kristina Kucova (SVK) bt Jelena Ostapenko (LAT x3) 5-7, 6-3, 6-2; Saisai Zheng (CHN) bt Aleksandra Krunic (SRB) 6-1, 6-3

OSAKA RISES TO FOURTH RANKINGS

Japan's US Open champion Naomi Osaka rose to fourth place in the latest WTA rankings on the strength of her outstanding form in recent weeks. Romania's Simona Halep tops the table ahead of second-placed Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark with Germany's Angelique Kerber holding onto third place.

Osaka, aged 20, who reached the semi-finals of the China Open last week, moves up from sixth to fourth place on 4,770 points and is closing in on Kerber, who has 5,400 points. The rising Japanese star become only the second Asian woman to win a Grand Slam singles title with



Karolina Pliskova of Czech Republic. (AFP)

last month's stunning win over Serena Williams in the US Open final.

Latest WTA rankings: 1. Simona Halep (ROU) 7421 pts; 2. Caroline Wozniacki (DEN) 6490; 3. Angelique Kerber (GER) 5400; 4. Naomi Osaka

(JPN) 4770 (+2); 5. Elina Svitolina (UKR) 4350; 6. Karolina Pliskova (CZE) 4345 (+1); 7. Petra Kvitova (CZE) 4255 (-3); 8. Sloane Stephens (USA) 4022 (+1); 9. Julia Goerges (GER) 3785 (+1) 10. Kiki Bertens (NED) 3740 (+1)

MLB

Brewers reach NLCS with sweep of Colorado

AFP
Denver

Erik Kratz maintained his hot bat and the vaunted bullpen pitched masterfully as the Milwaukee Brewers swept their National League Division Series by clobbering the Colorado Rockies 6-0 on Sunday.

The Brewers took advantage of some Colorado mistakes in the sixth inning to bust open Game Three – and then added back-to-back homers in the ninth for good measure.

Milwaukee starter Wade Miley pitched superbly into the fifth inning to help lead the Brewers to a 3-0 sweep of the Rockies – and their first NL Championship Series appearance in seven years.

Miley allowed three hits over 4 2/3 innings of work and five Brewer relievers, including closer Josh Hader, allowed only one hit after taking over for Miley in front of a crowd of 49,600 at

RESULTS	
Division Series National League At Colorado	(Milwaukee wins series 3-0)
Milwaukee Brewers 6 Colorado Rockies 0	At Atlanta
	Atlanta Braves 6 Los Angeles Dodgers 5
	(Los Angeles leads series 2-1)

Cools Field in Denver. Hader got Rockies first baseman Ian Desmond to fly out to end the game.

“The story of the series for us was certainly our pitching,” Brewers manager Craig Counsell said. Kratz went three-for-four at the plate and scored a run, while Keon Broxton and Orlando Arcia blasted consecutive homers late to put the game away.

Kratz, a catcher who was acquired from the New York Yankees in May in a trade, is making the most of this latest opportunity. He batted five-for-eight in the series. The Rockies offense fell apart in the series, producing just two runs and 14 hits overall.

Colorado, who lost the first two games at Miller Park by scores of 3-2 and 4-0, scored

runs in only one inning in the entire series.

ATLANTA AVOIDS SWEEP

The Brewers will next face either the Los Angeles Dodgers or the Atlanta Braves.

Also on Sunday, Atlanta relief pitcher Arodys Vizcaino got out of a jam in a ninth and the Braves held on to beat the Dodgers, 6-5, to avoid suffering a sweep like the Rockies.

Los Angeles now leads their best-of-five series, two games to one. Atlanta rookie Ronald Acuna smacked a grand slam to help the Braves build a 5-0 lead against the Dodgers.

They then blew that big lead, but first baseman Freddie Freeman hit a tie-breaking home run

in the sixth and Atlanta never looked back.

In the ninth, the Dodgers threatened with runners on first and second and no outs. Vizcaino then struck out three consecutive batters – Max Muncy, Manny Machado and Brian Dozier – to end it. “My heart’s still pounding,” Freeman said, moments after the last out. “That’s how we’ve been all year.”

“I like our chances. We’ve got a uniform on, so we know we’ve got a chance.”

Game Four takes place Monday in Atlanta. The 20-year-old Acuna became the youngest Major League player to hit a playoff grand slam, surpassing Mickey Mantle, who was 21 when he did it for the New York Yankees in the 1953 World Series.

Chris Taylor hit a two-run homer and Muncy added a tying homer in the fifth to spark the comeback for Los Angeles, which was denied its second straight NLDS sweep after blanking Arizona last year.



Milwaukee Brewers relief pitcher Josh Hader (right) celebrates with catcher Erik Kratz after beating the Colorado Rockies in game three of the 2018 NLDS playoff series. PICTURE: USA TODAY Sports

NFL

Gurley scores three TDs as Rams edge Seattle to go 5-0

‘You need to know that when these games come around, can you finish. That’s what we did today’

AFP
Los Angeles

Quarterback Jared Goff threw for 321 yards and a touchdown and Todd Gurley scored three touchdowns as the Los Angeles Rams kept their perfect record intact with a nail-biting 33-31 win over the Seattle Seahawks.

The unbeaten Rams needed Gurley and Goff to step up Sunday in front of a crowd of 68,900 at Seattle’s Century Link Field after their two best receivers, Brandin Cooks and Cooper Kupp, went down with concussions late in the first half.

Receiver Robert Woods also did his part as the Rams moved to 5-0 on the NFL season.

“You need to know that when these games come around, can you finish. That’s what we did today,” Gurley said.

Gurley scored on a two-yard run in the first quarter, and added touchdowns of two and five yards in the second half with the latter coming on the second play of the fourth quarter to pull the Rams within 31-30. Kicker Cairo Santos missed the extra point attempt and allowing the Seahawks to hold onto a one-point lead.

Santos made amends with a 39-yard field goal with 6:05 remaining to give the Rams a 33-31 lead.

That still left time for Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson, but Seattle made a pair of costly late blunders.

“That was hard. We’re there. Knock a couple more yards out, kick a field goal and win the game,” Seattle coach Pete Carroll said. “Unfortunately we didn’t get it.”

Wilson threw for three touchdowns and Seattle had a running back surpass 100 yards rushing for a third straight game as Chris Carson romped for 116 yards. The running game helped set the stage for Wilson’s air attack as Seattle finished with 190 yards on the ground, but it wasn’t enough to stop the Rams from improving their perfect record.

CHIEFS REACH 5-0

The Kansas City Chiefs also improved to 5-0, their defense taking their turn to shine on a rainy Sunday at Arrowhead Stadium as they held the Jacksonville Jaguars scoreless in the first half of a 30-14 victory.

A Chiefs defensive unit that has been overshadowed by the exploits of the offense guided by young quarterback Patrick Mahomes forced Jaguars quarterback Blake Bortles into five turnovers, including a pick-six by defensive end Chris Jones.

Jones grabbed a Bortles pass in the second quarter for his second career interception and ran it back for a touchdown from 20 yards out. It was his first career score and the Chiefs’ first defensive points of the season.

Kansas City’s defense held up despite the fact that Jones was ejected in the second half after striking a Jaguars player in the thigh as both were on the ground.



Los Angeles Rams running back Todd Gurley celebrates after scoring a touchdown against the Seattle Seahawks during the third quarter at CenturyLink Field. PICTURE: USA TODAY Sports

Defender Dee Ford followed him out when he was called for a second unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.

Kansas City’s prolific offense did their part as well, despite the fact that Mahomes threw his first two interceptions of the season.

Mahomes completed 22 of 38 passes for 313 yards and ran for a touchdown.

Kareem Hunt added 87 yards on 22 carries and Travis Kelce caught five passes for 100 yards as the Chiefs attack shrugged off Jacksonville’s league-leading defense.

In other games, the Cincinnati Bengals scored 27 unanswered points as they rallied for a 27-17 victory over the visiting Miami Dolphins.

Dolphins quarterback Ryan Tannehill committed two fourth quarter turnovers

that were returned for Cincinnati touchdowns and fell into a 3-2 tie with the New England Patriots top the AFC East.

The Bengals top the AFC North at 4-1, improving their best start since 2015.

In Charlotte, Graham Gano booted a game-winning 63-yard field goal with one second remaining to lift the Carolina Panthers to a 33-31 victory over the New York Giants.

“Piece of cake,” Panthers coach Ron Rivera said of Gano’s kick, which matched the longest game-winner in NFL history a 63-yarder by Saints kicker Tom Dempsey in 1970.

Gano’s field goal came after quarterback Cam Newton piloted a game-winning drive with little more than a minute left, following a touchdown from Giants running back Saquon Barkley.

RESULTS		
Miami	17-27	Cincinnati
Atlanta	17-41	Pittsburgh
Baltimore	9-12	Cleveland
Denver	16-34	Jets
Green Bay	23-31	Detroit
Jacksonville	14-30	Kansas City
Giants	31-33	Carolina
Tennessee	12-13	Buffalo
Oakland	10-26	Chargers
Arizona	28-18	San Francisco
Rams	33-31	Seattle
Minnesota	23-21	Philadelphia
Houston	19-16	Dallas

NHL

Iafallo nets two goals as Kings ding Wings

Reuters
New York

Alex Iafallo had two goals and Ilya Kovalchuk added two assists as the host Los Angeles Kings beat the Detroit Red Wings 4-2 on Sunday night.

Iafallo scored twice in the third period, including an empty-netter with 21 seconds left, and Anze Kopitar and Paul LaDue also scored to help the Kings record their first victory in their second game of the season.

Los Angeles playing without goalie Jonathan Quick, who was placed on injured reserve after sustaining a lower-body injury in practice Saturday. Kovalchuk, who spent the past five seasons in Russia’s Kontinental Hockey League, assisted on Kopitar’s goal early in the second period and also set up Iafallo’s first goal midway through the third period. The first was his 400th NHL assist. He has 417 goals in a 12-year NHL career.

Anthony Mantha and Dylan Larkin scored their first goals of the season on power plays for the Red Wings, who lost their second straight. Detroit began a stretch in which it will play six of seven on the road.

Larkin’s goal with 4:00 remaining in the third period cut Detroit’s deficit to 3-2. The Red Wings pulled goalie Jonathan Bernier with 1:49 remaining but did not get another good look.

Kings goalie Jack Campbell made 36 saves in his sixth career start. Campbell was 2-0-2 in five games (four starts) for Los Angeles last season. Quick, who made his 10th opening-day start for the Kings on Friday, will miss at least three games, and the Kings listed no timetable for his return. Bernier made 21 saves in

his first start of the season after Jimmy Howard started the opener, a 3-2 overtime loss to the Columbus Blue Jackets.

Kopitar scored the first goal of the game at 4:21 of the second period on a backhander over Bernier’s glove from the right circle after taking a pass from Kovalchuk.

Mantha shot from deep in the right circle tied the game at 1 at 8:45 of the second period.

LaDue gave the Kings a 2-1 lead when he scored on a severe angle from the right circle at 16:14 of the second period, the puck getting through Bernier’s pads. Iafallo took a pass from Kovalchuk and scored at point-blank range for a 3-1 lead at 9:15 of the third period.

Bernier dislodged the net before the shot, but the officials ruled that the goal stood.

Detroit defenseman Trevor Daley sustained an undisclosed injury eight minutes into the game and did not return, leaving the Red Wings with three rookie defensemen. Los Angeles defenseman Drew Doughty played in his 330th consecutive game, tying Kopitar’s franchise record.

Meanwhile The Columbus Blue Jackets have placed center Brandon Dubinsky on injured reserve, the team announced yesterday. Dubinsky sustained a strained oblique muscle in practice on Sunday.

The team said he is expected to miss four to six weeks.

Dubinsky, 32, posted points in each of the Jackets’ first two games this season with a goal and an assist. He also won 68.8 percent of faceoffs and has averaged 14 minutes, 27 seconds of ice time per game. Last season, he played in just 62 games because of a broken eye socket. He finished with a career-low six goals and 16 points.

NBA

Timberwolves, Heat trade talks over Butler break down

By Chris Hine
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

It has been nearly three weeks since Jimmy Butler requested a trade from the Timberwolves, and although the Timberwolves were close to a trade this weekend, Butler is still on the team and uncertainty clouds his immediate future.

The Wolves and Heat were close to a deal on Friday, but talks broke down late in the process, a source told the Star Tribune.

The Heat have been aggressive in pursuing Butler and Miami is one of Butler’s preferred destinations in a trade, but despite progress on talks this week, the teams couldn’t get to the finish line. The talks could re-start, but the breakdown means it will likely take more time for the Wolves to deal Butler and the ambiguity around his status could remain into the regular season.

ESPN reported that the trade progressed to the point where the Wolves shared Butler’s medical information with the Heat and the owners for each team were consulted until the Wolves made 11th hour demands and the talks broke down.

The report also said the Rockets have been aggressive in trying to acquire Butler while Yahoo reported the Clippers have interest in trading for Butler. ESPN reported the Heat softened their stance to include guard Josh Richardson in a potential deal.

Thibodeau has said Butler’s situation is “fluid” and has repeated many times over the last few weeks that he will make a deal as long as a good deal materializes. Butler remains away from the team officially as he rehabilitates his surgically-repaired right hand.

The Wolves are at Iowa State on Sunday for a preseason game against the Bucks.

COMMENT

Boks can be World Cup contenders, says Erasmus

Reuters
Pretoria

Coach **Rassie Erasmus** says South Africa can be contenders at the Rugby World Cup in Japan next year, a belief fuelled by their performance for 75 minutes in Saturday's heart-breaking 32-30 Rugby Championship loss to New Zealand at Loftus Versfeld.

The Springboks blew a 12-point lead in the dying stages of the game, but had largely controlled the flow of the match to that point.

Their performance, coupled with a 36-34 win in Wellington last month, is a vast improvement for a side that was humiliated 57-0 by the world champions just a year ago.

"I'm definitely happy with the progress and the growth we have shown," Erasmus told reporters. "South African rugby fans

are not stupid and there will be criticism of this defeat, but we have shown growth and we will cling on to that.

"The last three games between us have been decided by no more than two points and when we run out against them (New Zealand) now, the game can go either way. I'm proud we've got back to that position.

"It gives me hope that and belief that if we do a few things right we will be in with a real chance at the next year's World Cup."

The difference in the game ultimately came after both sides had emptied their benches, with New Zealand able to raise their intensity and the Boks battling to contain them with less experience on the pitch.

Erasmus was not surprised by the fight shown from the visitors, or their ability to raise their intensity levels.

"I remember from when I was in Ireland, seeing New Zealand come back

against the Irish from an impossible position, so I never thought the game was in the bag, even with five minutes to go," he said.

"That's New Zealand's culture, that's how they do things and that's where we have to get to. We will learn from this."

Captain Siya Kolisi rued some "soft moments" in the closing stages from his side that allowed the All Blacks to score two tries in the final four minutes.

"For 70 minutes we did a lot of things right, but we had some soft moments and against the number one team in the world you can't afford to do that," Kolisi said.

"That's probably where we lost it. I don't think we deserved to lose but they really stuck to their game and perhaps we switched off for a split second."

The Boks now face a Northern Hemisphere tour to finish their season, starting with a clash against England at Twickenham on Nov. 3. They also meet France, Scotland and Wales.



RUGBY

Cheika safe but RA looking at changes to 'environment'

'I did everything that I can to be better for the final, it wasn't enough time to feel 100 percent'



Australian players celebrate after winning a Rugby Union Championship match against Argentina at the Padre Ernesto Martareana stadium in Salta, Argentina, on Saturday. (AFP)

Reuters
Melbourne

Michael Cheika will be hauled before Rugby Australia's board in a review of the Wallabies' poor Rugby Championship campaign but his coaching tenure is not up for discussion, the governing body's CEO said.

Australia capped a disappointing tournament with a huge comeback win over Argentina on Saturday but finished third in the standings behind New Zealand and South Africa with two wins and four losses.

"We're not talking about Michael Cheika being sacked as the head coach," RA CEO Raelene Castle told *The Australian* newspaper. "I don't think that that is the scenario that we are talking about. We're talking about changes to the whole environment."

"Michael gets back on Monday night. He will present to us his thoughts of the last two games and where he sees the performance of his team, the coaching team as well as the on-field team. And then we will as-

Haylett-Petty shift to fullback proves a winner for Wallabies

Australia coach Michael Cheika's selections throughout the Rugby Championship have generated their share of criticism but there have been few complaints about the decision to switch Dane Haylett-Petty to fullback. After playing 22 consecutive tests on the wing, Haylett-Petty was handed the number 15 jersey after incumbent Israel Folau suffered an ankle strain in the tournament opener against the All Blacks.

Such was Haylett-Petty's poise in the rear-guard position that Cheika elected to keep the tall Western Australian there even when Folau returned from injury, shifting the New South Wales Waratah to the wing instead. While Cheika tweaked his forward pack and changed his playmaking combinations back and forth, Haylett-Petty remained one of the few constants during the last five matches of

since replacing Ewen McKenzie in 2014. With the Wallabies struggling in all facets of the game, the scrutiny has extended to Cheika's staff, which includes attack coach Stephen Larkham, defence head Nathan Grey and skills coach Mick Byrne.

Cheika showed he at least still has the support of the players, who lifted dramatically in the

competition.

A nasty stomach complaint on the eve of the final match against Argentina on Saturday threatened to break the streak but Haylett-Petty rose from his sickbed to score two tries and take the man-of-the-match award in Salta.

"I always felt like I was going to feel much better come game time and our medical staff did a really good job getting me right," the 29-year-old said.

"I was obviously a little bit nervous pre-game but once I got out there and started to warm up I felt pretty good and I was able to get through 80."

The Wallabies' Jekyll-and-Hyde performance against Argentina, where they turned a 31-7 deficit into a rousing 45-34 win, had plenty of pundits asking how the team could be so ab-

ject in one half and so clinical in the second. Haylett-Petty said they needed to have a proper review of the game before the next test against the All Blacks in Yokohama in two weeks, the third and final Bledisloe Cup match.

"I don't know, I think that's something we need to go back and look at and I think there's a big lesson there for us," he said. "Obviously the second half is how we want to play, so to come out and be more consistent in that."

"I think it wasn't so much technical, it was just heart, probably. "We knew we had to respond, we knew this was an important game, we've been under a bit of pressure as a team and I think the boys came out and responded."

second half against the Pumas after receiving a huge half-time spray by their coach. Cheika has remained defiant throughout the campaign, insisting he has a "plan" and the Wallabies will emerge from the tough period in time for the World Cup in Japan in a year's time.

Castle said RA also had a plan, without elaborating on its detail. "Rugby Australia, as you know, has a history of doing things under crisis. But we've worked really hard to make sure that (the coaching issue) isn't one of them."

The Wallabies face New Zealand in the third Bledisloe Cup test in Yokohama on October 27, a dead rubber after the All Blacks wrapped up the annual trans-Tasman series 2-0 with wins in Sydney and Auckland.

SPOTLIGHT

Registration open for seventh edition of Aspire Torch Staircase Run

Aspire Zone Foundation (AZF) yesterday announced opening registration for the seventh annual Aspire Torch Staircase Run scheduled to take place on November 10 at the Torch hotel in Aspire Zone.

The 2018 edition of the Aspire Torch Staircase Run (ATSR 2018), will offer sports enthusiasts the ultimate challenge of endurance, as runners will have to make their way to the top of the 300m tower to the 51st floor, climbing more than 1300 steps.

Those who finish the race in the shortest time will receive valuable prizes.

Registration for this year's race is open for participants eight years of age and older and will feature four categories in different age groups.

The first categories to compete will be the Junior (8 to 11 years old), followed by the U-15 (12 - 14 years), followed by the U-18 (15-17 years), and finally by the Senior (above 18 years).

Previous editions of the run generated unprecedented suc-



cess on par with international tower-running competitions, including Empire State Building Run-Up in New York, USA, and Berlin Sky Tower in Germany.

Over the past editions, ATSR attracted more than 600 participants from both local and expat communities alongside other tower runners from all over the world. In 2015, ATSR was awarded an official Grand Prix status as one of the top international tower running competitions.

Interested community members can visit www.lifeinaspire.qa to register and find out more information about taking part in the run.

FOCUS

Hansen goes back to well after Cane suffers broken neck

Reuters
Wellington

New Zealand coach Steve Hansen must seek out previously untapped talent for their end-of-season tour after first choice openside flanker Sam Cane broke a bone in his neck in the win over South Africa on Saturday.

Cane collided with Francois Louw after 35 minutes in Pretoria and was replaced by Ardie Savea, who scored the last-minute try that gave the All Blacks a comeback 32-30 victory.

The 26-year-old Cane was visibly in pain and the All Blacks later said he had suffered a fracture in one of his neck vertebrae although there was no nerve damage. He had surgery and was expected to remain in South Africa for another week.

"Like any fracture it takes a couple of weeks and months," All Blacks doctor Tony Page said. "It will probably take about three months for the bone to get strong but we'll just take it step-by-step."

"The operation is really just to keep everything in the right place so the bone can heal on its own accord."

Cane was expected to be out of action for at least three months, but Hansen said they would not hurry his return to the field with an eye on next year's Rugby World Cup.

"It is expected he will make a full recovery and be back playing," Hansen added.

"Once you remove the drama of it being a neck injury you've just got to look at it and treat it like any fracture."

Cane's absence from the end-of-year tour will test Hansen's depth in the number seven jersey, with Savea expected to become the starter after a superb performance against the Springboks.

Canterbury Crusaders' Matt Todd is the only other specialist number seven in New Zealand with test experience, but was overlooked for the Rugby Championship squad after he took up a short-term contract in Japan that runs until early next year.

Otago Highlanders' Dillon Hunt played a non-test match against a French XV on last year's end-of-season tour, while the Wellington Hurricanes' Gareth Evans was impressive in Super Rugby this year and was mentioned as a potential dark-horse pick for the Rugby Championship squad.

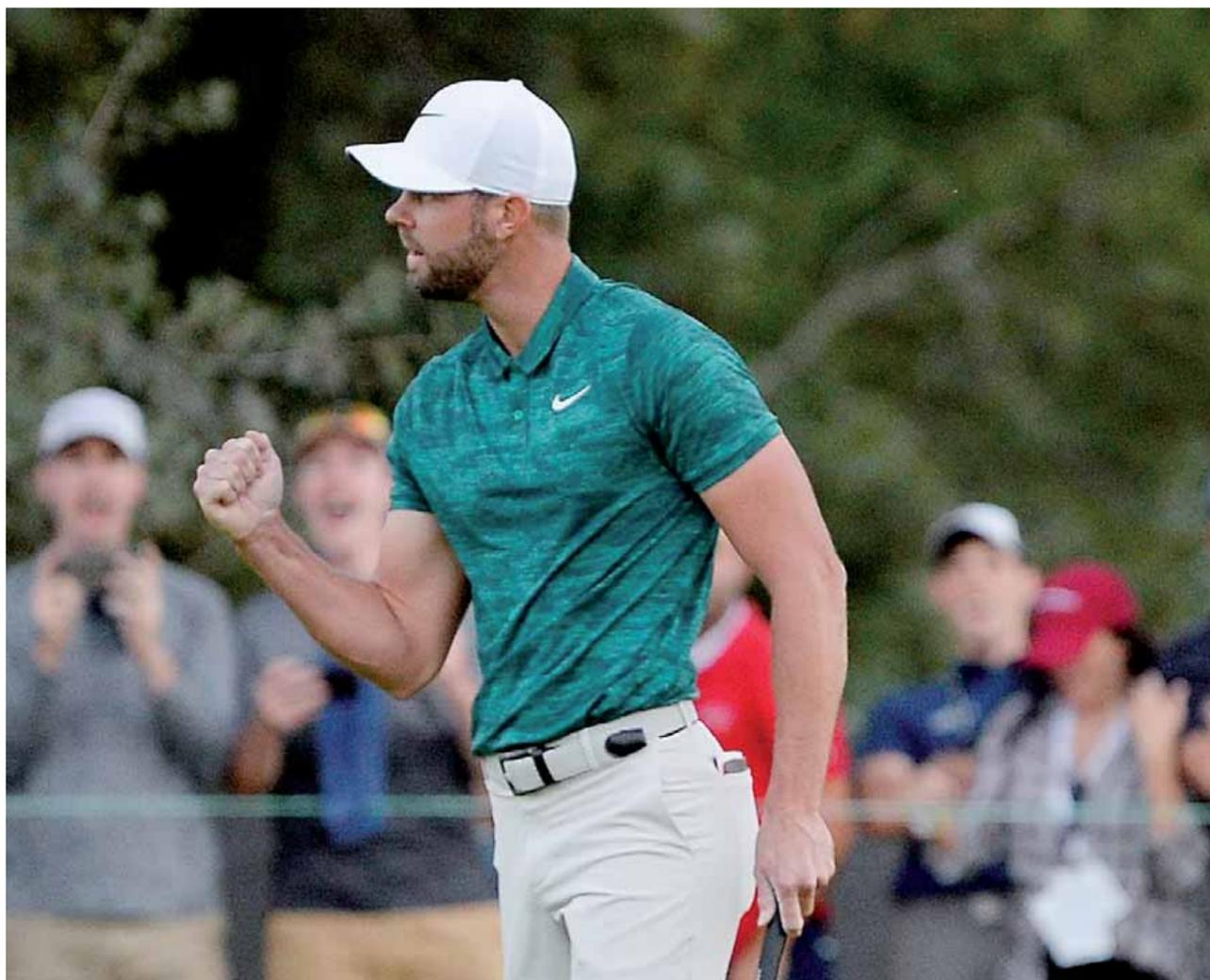
Hansen, however, will have plenty of opportunity to mull his choices with his decision to select an extended squad of players for their two tests in Japan before they head to Europe.

The All Blacks face Australia in the third Bledisloe Cup clash in Yokohama on Oct. 27 before they face Japan on Nov. 3 in Tokyo. They then meet England at Twickenham on Nov. 10. Hansen said a large group of players would then head to London after the Wallabies test, with the remainder staying behind to prepare for the Japan match.

GOLF

Tway wins first US PGA title in playoff as Snedeker fades

'Really disappointing. I played a really good front nine in tough conditions, made the turn and actually drove the ball really well, just hit some really, really poor iron shots'



Kevin Tway putts in to win on a third hole sudden death playoff against Ryan Moore on the 10th green during the final round of the Safeway Open in Napa, California. (AFP)

AFP
Los Angeles

Kevin Tway birdied his last five holes, three in a playoff, to win his first US PGA Tour title on Sunday at the Safeway Open, where Brandt Snedeker squandered a five-shot lead in the final round.

Tway rolled in a 10-foot birdie putt at the third hole of sudden death to win the first event of the US tour's 2018-19 season over Ryan Moore at Silverado Resort in Napa, California.

Snedeker, who started the day with a three-shot lead and led by five with 11 remaining in regulation, fell by the wayside with a par at the first playoff hole.

Moore matched Tway's birdies at the first and second playoff

LEADING SCORES FROM THE FINAL ROUND

274 - x-Kevin Tway 68-67-68-71, Ryan Moore 67-67-73-67, Brandt Snedeker 66-65-69-74	70-68-67-73
275 - Luke List 70-69-69-67, Troy Merritt 67-70-70-68, Sam Ryder 69-70-67-69, Aaron Baddeley (AUS) 70-67-69-69, Im Sung-jae (KOR) 66-69-69-71	279 - Julián Etulain (ARG) 68-69-72-70, Adam Schenk 67-69-70-73, Harold Varner 70-69-68-72, 280 - Michael Thompson 69-65-75-71, Patrick Cantlay 69-68-73-70, Tom Hoge 71-70-69-70, Phil Mickelson 65-69-74-72, Hunter Mahan 70-68-70-72, Cameron Davis (AUS) 70-70-72-68, Lucas Glover 69-70-69-72, Nate Lashley 68-69-70-73.
277 - J.B. Holmes 70-70-69-68	
278 - Danny Lee (NZL) 69-68-72-69, Jim Knous 73-67-69-69, Chase Wright 64-72-70-72, Bill Haas	

holes, before succumbing at the third - the par-four 10th.

"I'm kind of at a loss for words," said Tway, the 30-year-old son of 1986 PGA Championship winner Bob Tway.

"I think I birdied my last five holes - that always helps."

He had birdied 17 and 18 in regulation to complete a one-under par 71 at Silverado Resort in Napa, California, finishing tied with Moore and Snedeker on 14-under par 274.

Snedeker started the day with

a three-shot lead and stretched the advantage to five after birdies at the fifth and seventh before slumping with four bogeys on the back nine.

That included three in a row at 10, 11 and 12, and that was enough to see his lead evaporate as Moore birdied 15, 16 and 18 to reach 14-under with a five-under par final-round of 67.

"I was just able to put together a round of golf," said Moore, who had six birdies and just one bogey.

"On a day like today it's not about necessarily how you're swinging, it's about how you just get the ball in the hole and somehow I managed to do that."

Snedeker briefly regained a one-shot lead with a birdie at the par-five 16th, where he rolled in a 10-foot putt.

But he immediately gave the shot back at the 17th, where he was far left off the tee and in the pine straw under a tree. He found a bunker at the par-five

18th and settled for a par and a two-over 74.

"Really disappointing," Snedeker said.

"I played a really good front nine in tough conditions, made the turn and actually drove the ball really well, just hit some really, really poor iron shots."

Snedeker said he'd remember the event as one he "gave away". "It's done, and I didn't do it," he said.

"It sucks right now, but I'm playing next week."

The top trio finished a stroke in front of a group of five players on 275.

Luke List jumped into that bunch with an eagle at 18 to cap his 67. Troy Merritt carded a 68, Sam Ryder and Australian Aaron Baddeley fired 69s and Web.com Tour graduate Im Sung-jae of South Korea posted a 71 to complete the group at 13-under.

FOCUS

I need to rest, says Malaysia's Lee after cancer treatment

AFP
Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia Badminton ace Lee Chong Wei said he needed to be left alone to rest for at least a few days after returning home following nose cancer treatment in Taiwan.

The world number five and three-time Olympic silver medalist returned late on Sunday night on a private jet to the Subang International Airport, near Kuala Lumpur, the official Bernama news agency said.

Lee was whisked away in a four-car convoy with heavily tinted windows according to local media reports.

"I need to rest. I will hold a press conference soon with the members of the media," the *New Straits Times* newspaper cited him as saying via a text message. "Just allow me to rest for a

few days before I meet everyone. Thank you."

Norza Zakaria, Badminton Association of Malaysia (BAM) president, told AFP that the former world number one was recovering positively from his treatment after announcing last month Lee had been diagnosed with early-stage nose cancer.

A sports official familiar with the situation said Lee had undergone proton therapy treatment in Taiwan. Lee is one of Malaysia's top sports stars after carving out a long run of success at badminton's highest levels, despite his oft-lamented failure to win a world or Olympic title.

Lee fought his way back to prominence in the badminton circuit following his return from a doping ban in 2015.

Lee tested positive for a banned anti-inflammatory drug at the 2014 World Championships, an incident which many feared would end his career.



SPOTLIGHT

Love match! Indian badminton ace Saina to wed Kashyap

AFP
New Delhi

India's former world number one Saina Nehwal is to marry fellow badminton player Parupalli Kashyap in December, local media reported yesterday.

Nehwal confirmed her wedding with the 57th-ranked Kashyap to the mass-circulation *Times of India* daily, saying the time was right to exchange marriage vows.

Rumours about their love affair had been swirling for some time but the pair always maintained a studied silence until now.

Nehwal, 28, said she had started dating Kashyap, 32, in 2007 after they began going on tours together but delayed the marriage in order to focus on their careers.

"In the competitive world that we live in, it is difficult to get close to someone. But somehow

we both found it very easy to talk to each other," she told the English-language daily.

Nehwal said she did not have to break the news to her parents as they had sensed it already.

"I didn't have to tell them. We used to be together most of the time and my parents also travelled with me, so they understood who I was close to."

Nehwal, who won a bronze at the recent Asian Games in Jakarta, is currently 11th in the world badminton rankings.

The wedding, to be held on December 16, will be the latest after a string of high-profile sports couples tied the knot.

Grand Slam-winning Indian tennis star Sania Mirza married Pakistan cricketer Shoaib Malik in a dazzling ceremony in 2010 while wicketkeeper Dinesh Karthik is married to squash sensation Dipika Pallikal.

Fast bowler Ishant Sharma married national basketball player Pratima Singh in 2016.

QATAR MOUNTAIN BIKE LEAGUE



Great Britain's Szymon Wasiak (centre) won the first leg of the 2nd Qatar Mountain Bike League on Friday. Velostar's Tom Whateley (right) came second, while Qatar national team's Abdullah al-Jaaidi came third. Finland's Pia Sundstedt emerged winner in the women's open category. The race was organised by the United Filipino Mountain Bikers Qatar in partnership with Qatar Cycling and Triathlon Federation at Al Kheesa.

Japanese amateur lives 'dream' by winning Masters spot

New Asian amateur golf champion Takumi Kanaya said he was living out a childhood dream after emulating Japan's top golfer Hideki Matsuyama by winning a spot in next year's US Masters and British Open. The 20-year-old Japanese Kanaya shot a five-under-par 65 Sunday to win the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship by two strokes from India's Rayhan Thomas and compatriot and fellow Asian Games gold medal winner Keita Nakajima. "This is simply like a dream. I have been dreaming of going to the Masters ever since I was a kid," said Kanaya at Sentosa Golf Club after posting a 13-under par total of 267 after four days of competition. Japan's world number 21 Matsuyama, 26, won the second of his two Asian Amateur titles in Singapore in 2011 before turning

professional and rising to as high as world number two last year on the back of five US PGA Tour wins.

"I never expected to play the Masters and The Open so early in my career so this is just huge," said Kanaya after following in the footsteps of Matsuyama. He will now tee up alongside the world's best professionals including Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy at Augusta for April's Masters and in July at Royal Portrush in Northern Ireland for the British Open.

"I played well throughout the day but I think the key for me was how I kept my calm and composure during the round." Kanaya and Nakajima were both part of Japan's gold medal winning team at the Asian Games in August. Nakajima also won the individual gold.



CRICKET

Sohail century adds to Aussie woes in Dubai

'It's always a big pride to score a Test hundred for your country and I have worked really hard...'



Pakistan's Haris Sohail celebrates reaching his century against Australia at Dubai International Stadium in Dubai yesterday.

AFP
Dubai

Australia's openers survived a torrid 13 over spell to finish on 30 without loss after Haris Sohail's maiden century guided Pakistan to 482 on the second day of the first Test in Dubai yesterday. Usman Khawaja was unbeaten on 17 and debutant Aaron Finch was 13 not out as Australia negotiated some tight spin bowling from Pakistan on a pitch which has started to show signs of turn.

Pakistan unleashed four overs from leg-spinner Yasir Shah and a combined three from off-spinners Mohamed Hafeez and Bilal Asif, but both Australian openers looked assured.

Australia trail Pakistan by 452 runs with all ten wickets intact, but they face a big battle ahead of them with Yasir expected to pose the main threat.

A sparkling hundred from left-hander Sohail and a polished 80 from Asad Shafiq had enabled Pakistan to build on an overnight score of 255 for 3, with nightwatchman Mohamed Abbas (one) the only wicket to fall in the morning session. Sohail's patient six-hour knock featured eight fours and two sixes, as he added 150 for the fifth wicket with Shafiq who was unlucky to miss out on his 10th century.

The pair frustrated the Australian attack with some solid batting as Pakistan reached 329-4 at lunch, with both in sight of centuries.

But Shafiq fell to the leg-spin of

Marnus Labuschagne minutes before tea as he edged a turning ball to wicketkeeper Tim Paine for the debutant's first wicket. Shafiq hit nine boundaries and a six in his 278 minutes at the crease.

Sohail did not get to three figures though, hitting a six off spinner Jon Holland before cutting him to third man for two to complete his century.

He was finally dismissed by Nathan Lyon, caught behind as he tried to cut the off-spinner, having easily surpassed his previous best of 76 made against Sri Lanka in Abu Dhabi last year.

Sohail was pleased to go on and post a big score after regularly making several promising starts before getting out earlier in the year.

"I was getting out on 30-40 runs on the tour of England (in May-June this year)," said Sohail. "So I wanted to get out of that panic situation and I am happy that I have done that today."

"It's always a big pride to score a Test hundred for your country and I have worked really hard to reach this far," said Sohail, who was sidelined for a two-year period with a knee injury in 2015. Pakistan lost their last six wickets for 72 runs, including the run outs of Babar Azam (four) and skipper Sarfraz Ahmed for 15.

Fast bowler Peter Siddle was the pick of the bowlers with 3-58 while Lyon finished with 2-114 from 52 overs. Holland, Labuschagne and Mitchell Starc took a wicket each.

The second and final Test will be played in Abu Dhabi from October 16.

SCORECARD

Pakistan 1st innings

Imam-ul-Haq c Paine b Lyon76
 Mohammad Hafeez lbw b Siddle126
 Azhar Ali c Starc b Holland18
 Haris Sohail c Paine b Lyon110
 Mohammad Abbas b Siddle1
 Asad Shafiq c Paine b Labuschagne 80
 Babar Azam run out4
 Sarfraz Ahmed run out15
 Bilal Asif b Siddle12
 Wahab Riaz not out7
 Yasir Shah c Paine b Starc3
Extras: (b 6, lb 21, nb 3)30
Total: (all out, 164.2 overs)482
Fall of wickets: 1-205 (Imam), 2-222 (Hafeez), 3-244 (Azhar), 4-260 (Abbas), 5-410 (Shafiq), 6-418 (Azam), 7-456 (Sohail),

8-470 (Sarfraz), 9-473 (Asif), 10-482 (Yasir)

Bowling: Starc 36.2-11-90-1 (2nb), Siddle 29-11-58-3, Lyon 52-12-114-2, Holland 29-1-126-1, Labuschagne 8-0-29-1, M. Marsh 10-0-38-0 (1nb)

Australia 1st innings

Usman Khawaja not out17
 A. Finch not out13
Total: (for 0 wks, 13 overs)30
Still to bat: S. Marsh, T. Head, M. Marsh, M. Labuschagne, T.Paine, M. Starc, P. Siddle, N. Lyon, J. Holland
Bowling: Abbas 4-1-9-0, Riaz 2-0-6-0, Yasir 4-0-14-0, Hafeez 2-1-1-0, Asif 1-1-0-0
Toss: Pakistan

SPOTLIGHT

Hayden fractures neck in surfing accident

Reuters
Melbourne



Former Australia opening batsman Matthew Hayden said he has "dodged a bullet" after suffering a fractured bone in his neck and serious facial injuries while surfing at the weekend.

The 46-year-old was surfing with his son in south of Brisbane and said on his Instagram account on Saturday that he came off second best with a "Straddie back bank" and that it was "game over for a few days".

He posted a second message on Sunday with a photograph of him in a neck brace and nasty abrasions on his forehead.

"Fractured C6, torn C5, C4 ligaments safe to say I truly have dodged a bullet," he wrote referring to injuries to his cervical vertebrae.

"Just wanted to say a big thank you to all our mates on Straddie (Stradbroke Island) who have been so supportive."

"Thank you everyone. On the road to recovery."

The burly Hayden retired in 2009 as one of cricket's leading opening batsmen, scoring 8625 runs with 30 centuries from 103 Tests at an average of 50.73.

He held the world record score for a Test innings with his knock of 380 against Zimbabwe in October 2003 before West Indies great Brian Lara surpassed it with 400 not out six months later.

Pollard and Darren Bravo back for West Indies

Kingston: West Indies welcomed back batsman Darren Bravo and all-rounder Kieron Pollard to their limited-overs squad but opener Chris Gayle has decided to skip their series in India and Bangladesh, Cricket West Indies has said.

Bravo, whose stance and bat swing is modelled on his illustrious cousin Brian Lara, returns to the West Indies side after a two-year gap for the three Twenty20 Internationals in India.

Pollard, famed for his six-hitting prowess, will also return after a year out to join the Twenty20 team for the three-match series beginning in Kolkata on Nov. 4.

"We will be without our stalwart, Chris Gayle, for this Indian tour and the next tour against Bangladesh as he has declined selection at this time..." Courtney Browne, chairman of the selection panel, said in a statement late on Sunday.

Gayle, 39, is currently busy with the Afghanistan Premier League and will subsequently feature in the T10 league, also in the United Arab Emirates.

"... however, he has made himself available for the selection for the visit of England to the Caribbean and the CWC (Cricket World Cup) in 2019," Browne added.

All-rounder Andre Russell was also named in the Twenty20 squad to be led by Carlos Brathwaite but will miss the one-day series preceding the T20 matches with an injury.

ODI squad: Jason Holder (captain), Fabian Allen, Sunil Ambris, Devendra Bishoo, Chandepaul Hemraj, Shimron Hetmyer, Shai Hope, Alzarri Joseph, Evin Lewis, Ashley Nurse, Keemo Paul, Rovman Powell, Kemar Roach, Marlon Samuels, Oshane Thomas

T20 squad: Carlos Brathwaite (captain), Fabian Allen, Darren Bravo, Shimron Hetmyer, Evin Lewis, Obed McCoy, Ashley Nurse, Keemo Paul, Khary Pierre, Kieron Pollard, Rovman Powell, Denesh Ramdin, Andre Russell, Sherfane Rutherford, Oshane Thomas.

QATAR AT ASIAN PARA GAMES



Qatar's Mohamed Rashid al-Kubaisi (second from right) and Nasser al-Sahoti (bottom) in action at the Asian Para Games in Jakarta, yesterday. Qatar are aiming to beat their mark of five medals won at the 2014 Para Games in Incheon, South Korea.



RALLYING

Abdulla bounces back in Morocco



By Sports Reporter
Erfoud, Morocco

Abdel Abdulla was given the go-ahead to start the penultimate selective section of the 2018 Rally of Morocco by race officials after the Qatari had missed two legs of the penultimate round of the FIA World Cup for Cross-Country Rallies following a niggling ECU issue on his Nissan Patrol Y62.

The QX Rally Team driver is still hopeful that he can salvage something from the demanding six-day African event, even though he is too far behind arch T2 championship rival Ahmed al-Shegawi and Russian driver Andrey Titov in the general classification.

Adel and his French navigator Jean-Michel Polato started the 342km loop stage through the Erg Chebbi around Erfoud from last position on the road in the car category, but they were quickly into a fast pace in their repaired and reprogrammed Nissan.

They finished the timed test that featured difficult navigation, dunes and punishing rocky tracks in an unofficial time of 6hrs 57min 49sec to claim second position in the T2 category behind al-Shegawi after Titov was delayed with his own share of problems and lost the category lead to the Saudi.

Adel Abdulla said: "It was a long stage after the electrical problem we had with the ECU for two days. We managed to fix the car on Sunday. We are still in the race. It was a tough stage with a lot of different terrain, gravel, stones, sand and dunes. It was very tough in the dunes. We passed three or four places with different kinds of dunes. I think we did well. We did not push. The target now is to finish the race and see what will happen with the other competitors."

Adel Abdulla's challenge for honours comes with the support of the Qatar Motor and Motorcycle Federation (QMMF), Ooredoo Qatar and Nissan Qatar.