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South Africa thrash hapless Australia in Perth



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Sterling at the double as Man City hit Saints for six

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Monday, November 5, 2018  
Safar 27, 1440 AH

# GULF TIMES SPORT

MOTOGP

Marquez wins in Malaysia as Rossi crashes out of lead

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RECOGNITION

## Qatar 2022 stadiums receive sustainability awards

The sustainable construction practices at two 2022 FIFA World Cup stadiums have been recognised as outstanding by the Global Sustainability Assessment System (GSAS).

Both Al Wakrah Stadium and Al Bayt Stadium - Al Khor City were awarded a Class A\* rating by GSAS, which is administered in Qatar by the Gulf Organisation for Research & Development (GORD).

Al Wakrah Stadium will have a capacity of 40,000 and host matches up to the quarter-finals stage during Qatar 2022, while Al Bayt Stadium will be a semi-finals venue with 60,000 seats. Construction at both venues is due to be completed soon.

Abdulaziz Ali al-Ishaq, the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy's (SC) Al Wakrah Project Director, and Abdulaziz al-Mahmoud, Aspire Zone Foundation's Deputy Presi-



Construction at both venues - Al Wakrah Stadium (left) and Al Bayt Stadium - Al Khor City (right) - is due to be completed soon.

dent for Sport Projects, picked up the respective awards during the Sustainability Summit 2018, which was recently hosted in Doha by GORD.

Commenting on the milestone, al-Ishaq said: "Sustainability has been at the heart of our project from day one - right from the design phase, all the way through to completing

the construction of the stadium. It is an honour to receive this award, which is testament to the hard work of everyone involved in the project."

Meanwhile, Dr Nasser al-Hajri, Al Bayt Stadium Project Director at Aspire Zone Foundation, said: "We are very proud of the work done by the Al Bayt Stadium team to achieve this



certification. Sustainability is at the core of our work on a daily basis. This recognition follows the award given to us by GORD for the stadium's design, which also received the highest possible rating, thanks to its expression of local heritage and culture."

In awarding the Class A\* rating, GSAS praised both sta-

diums' promotion of sustainable practices, along with their monitoring and reduction of environmental impacts on construction activities. During development, the project teams prioritised waste recycling, the reuse of materials and water, and dust suppression.

The GSAS Trust, an independent certification body,

calculated the Class A\* ratings after conducting four site audits during the construction process at both venues.

Engineer Bodour al-Meer, the SC's Sustainability & Environmental Manager, said: "We are proud to receive these prestigious certifications for two of our stadiums - it is a major achievement for Qatar and the SC, as we strive to meet our ambitious sustainability targets in the lead-up to 2022 and beyond."

The SC is overseeing the development of seven stadiums in preparation for the 2022 FIFA World Cup, along with the redevelopment of Khalifa International Stadium, which reopened in May 2017. Each proposed venue is mandated to achieve a four-star GSAS Design & Build Certificate, which assesses the level of sustainability within the design of the stadium building.

(SC.qa)

SPOTLIGHT

## New statutes issued for QMMF



Minister of Culture and Sports HE Salah bin Ghanem bin Nasser al-Ali.

QNA  
Doha

Minister of Culture and Sports HE Salah bin Ghanem bin Nasser al-Ali issued yesterday a decision to adopt the new statutes of the Qatar Motor and Motorcycle Federation (QMMF) based on amendments proposed by the federation.

This decision is part of the strategy of the Ministry of Culture and Sports to empower young people and develop their capabilities as well as enhance the level of sport in Qatar, and within the co-ordination and fruitful co-operation between the Ministry and QMMF.

The decision also aims at enhancing QMMF's independence in the management of its affairs, as is the case in other federations, in order to enhance the level of the sport in the State and maintain its leadership in the international sports community. It also seeks to enable young people to participate effectively in the management of the federation and its sports clubs, involve them in their decision-making, and encourage them to make initiatives and proposals that will improve sports, which reflects the State's confidence in the youth and their potential and ability in this field.

The QMMF General Assembly has been formed, including all sports clubs that exercise any sports activity of cars and motorcycles. Within three months, the General Assembly would prepare for the election of a new board of directors as well as the adoption of QMMF's strategic plan and programmes in addition to exercising the other powers provided for in the statute.

An executive body was also established in Qatar SC and Al Sadd that specialise in motorsports. Qatar SC hosted the motorcycles activities at the Batabit centre, while Al Sadd hosted motor activities at Mawater centre. The two clubs are included in the members of the General Assembly of QMMF, in addition to the other specialised clubs that practice motorsports, such as Lusail SC.

The move aims to establish a promising national base that invests their experience and seeks to embrace initiatives and youth efforts in this field through the activities, and competitions organised by QMMF or participating locally and internationally, which is of great importance to the individual and society, and contributes to the dissemination of traffic culture among young people and open channels of communication with veterans athletes in order to benefit from their experiences and find a common space to discuss issues related to mechanical sports.

TENNIS

# Khachanov shocks Djoko to win in Paris

22-year-old Russian snaps Serbian superstar's 22-match winning streak with a straight sets win

Reuters  
Paris

Karen Khachanov caused one of the shocks of the tennis year by overpowering Novak Djokovic 7-5, 6-4 in the Paris Masters final to end the

Serbian's remarkable spell of dominance in the men's game yesterday.

The 22-year-old Russian has for some time been seen as one of the rising young talents of the sport but few could have envisaged his demolition of the Serbian superstar, who was on a three-month, 22-match winning streak.

Djokovic was expected to celebrate his return to world number one today with a record-extending fifth Paris title but he went down in one hour 37 minutes amid a hail of 31 crushing winners from the Muscovite's racket.

"To finish my season like this is a dream," Khachanov told the crowd in the Bercy arena, explaining how Djokovic had always been an inspiration to him.

He even took a leaf out of the Serb's book of celebrations by

bending down to kiss the Centre Court.

Khachanov, a strapping 6ft 6in huge hitter with surprisingly fleet movement around the court, took advantage of Djokovic being a little under-the-weather after a week struggling with flu-like symptoms.

Yet even though the Serb admitted he was not feeling his best after his epic three-hour win over Roger Federer in Saturday's semi-final, he had nothing but praise for the outstanding quality of Khachanov's attacking game.

"All credit to Karen, he did a great job today. He deserves the trophy," Djokovic told the crowd.

Earning his fourth straight win over a top-10 player this week, Khachanov, whose muscular game resembles that of his childhood hero Marat Safin,



a Russian three-times winner in Paris, picked up the biggest title of his burgeoning career.

It was his third triumph of the year, all on indoor hard courts, and will rocket Khachanov from 18th in the world to a career-high 11th today.

Even better news for a sport always on the look-out for the next bright young thing to

challenge the established order of Djokovic, Federer and Rafa Nadal, Khachanov looks to have the equipment to offer them a real threat.

"I'm sure we'll see a lot of great games from him in the future," conceded Djokovic.

That seems assured. What was most impressive about Khachanov's victory was the manner in which he bullied Djokovic around the court with the depth and booming accuracy of his groundstrokes and his confidence in his ventures to the net.

The only previous time they had met, Djokovic crushed the Russian in straight sets at Wimbledon and, momentarily, it seemed as if the same fate could await Khachanov again as he was out-rallied to go 3-1 down in the opening set.

Instead, up against a great champion who was looking for

a fourth consecutive tournament win, following his victories at the Cincinnati Masters, the US Open and the Shanghai Masters, he immediately broke back.

Khachanov redoubled his attacking intent, while not giving up another break point in the rest of the match with his efficient, heavy serving.

Constantly keeping the master of defence on the back foot, he converted a decisive break point at 5-5 with an irrefragable backhand at full stretch before taking the set in 57 minutes.

Then, with Djokovic clearly breathing harder, he earned the decisive break to go 2-1 up in the second set after Djokovic had pushed a weary-looking backhand into the net.



Russia's Karen Khachanov celebrates after winning the Paris Masters final against Serbia's Novak Djokovic (above) yesterday. (Reuters)

ENGLAND'S TOUR OF SRI LANKA

# Unsettled England plot to ruin Herath farewell



Reuters  
Galle, Sri Lanka

Many a visiting team have succumbed to the trial by spin in Sri Lanka and Joe Root's England will have to step up their game against the turning ball to escape that fate in the Test series beginning at Galle tomorrow. Sri Lanka have never shied away from milking their home advantage and the team, who have lost only one of their past six Test series at home, are unlikely to do anything different against an unsettled England. The three-Test series promises a familiar sight, with Sri Lanka's wily spinners to bowl tirelessly and often in tandem, preying on the technique and temperament of the touring batsmen on tracks where the fast bowlers will play cameos. And leading Sri Lanka's charge, for one last time, will be a bulky 40-year-old with a golden arm and creaky knees as Rangana Herath ends his illustrious career at the same Galle where he made his Test debut 19 years ago. Herath has carried Sri Lanka's spin burden on his shoulders since Muttiah Muralitharan's exit but the left-arm spinner has de-



Rangana Herath (also left).

cided he cannot carry on. He will retire after his 93rd Test, having already established himself as the most successful left-arm spinner in Test history with 430 scalps. Sri Lankan cricket of late has been a microcosm of the politically riven country, and Dinesh Chandimal's team will have to find ways to focus on the game amid turmoil off-field. Former captain Sanath Jayasuriya and bowling coach Nuwan

Zoysa are battling anti-corruption charges, while Sri Lanka Cricket chief financial officer Wimal Nandika Dissanayake has been remanded in custody by police for suspected financial misappropriation. In comparison, England's problem is to identify the best combination, especially the selections of their number three and wicketkeeper. With Keaton Jennings set to open with the uncapped Rory Burns, Joe Denly is primed for the number three slot, but the 32-year-old's struggle in the warm-up matches has jeopardised his Test debut. With wicketkeeper Jonny Bairstow recovering from an ankle injury, Jos Buttler is set to play but it could be purely as a batsman, with Surrey wicketkeeper Ben Foakes donning the keeper's gloves. "It's probably the likely scenario (that Buttler plays)," Root told the BBC last week. "But the reason we called Ben up is he's a high-quality wicketkeeper and gives us another way to balance the side up. It's a nice position to be in." Kandy hosts the second Test from November 14 and the final match is in Colombo from November 23.

1ST ODI

# Proteas thrash hapless Aussies

Hosts were bundled out for 152, visitors reach the target in 30th over

Reuters  
Perth

Dale Steyn claimed two early wickets as South Africa's pace attack combined superbly to heap more misery on Australia with a six-wicket thrashing to take a 1-0 lead in their three-match one-day international series yesterday. Sent in to bat, Australia succumbed to 152 all out in 38.1 overs and the victory target never looked like troubling the visitors who romped home with 20 overs to spare following a breezy 47 from opener Quinton de Kock. "We were exceptional with the ball and in the field," said South Africa skipper Faf du Plessis. "It was a very good day in the office and brilliant to have Dale back. It's good to have that X-factor in your bowling attack." Steyn, who suffered a career-threatening shoulder injury on his last visit to Perth two years ago, showed there was plenty of life yet in his 35-year-old body with a miserly early spell. The paceman (2-18) found the outside edge of Travis Head and D'Arcy Short, while Lungi Ngidi (2-26) reduced the hosts to eight for three when he trapped Aaron Finch lbw for just five – a decision the Australia skipper should have reviewed. Australia tried to steady the ship but progress was slow and they were subjected to



South Africa's Dale Steyn (second from left) celebrates with teammates after taking a wicket during the first ODI against Australia in Perth yesterday. (AFP)

some sarcastic applause from the by the sparse crowd of 24,342 at the end of the 12th over when Chris Lynn struck the first boundary of the innings. Lynn's vigil was short-lived as he was caught behind soon afterwards for 15 off the bowling of medium-pace Andile Phehlukwayo, who led the wicket-tally with three for 33. The Proteas bowled with great discipline, ensuring that Australia's inexperienced batting unit could never settle on a pitch which offered plenty of the pace and bounce that the nearby WACA traditionally offered.

Nathan Coulter-Nile's cameo knock of 34 – including one majestic pull for six – was a rare high point for a side missing David Warner and Steve Smith because of the suspensions doled out for the ball-tampering scandal in South Africa in March. De Kock and opening partner Reeza Hendricks (44) got South Africa off to a blistering start as Australia's seam attack struggled to utilise the conditions. Aiden Markram added 36 to the score and Marcus Stoinis (3-14) added some degree of respectability to the final margin, but at no stage were

the tourists threatened as du Plessis guided his team home with 10 not out. Australia, who will defend the 50-overs World Cup in England next year, were desperate for a morale-boosting win after a miserable nine months for the sport Down Under since the ball-tampering scandal. "Guys probably at times are doubting themselves," said Finch, whose side have won only two of their last 14 one-dayers. "When South Africa bowled as well as they did today, you have to be at your absolute best."

Scorecard

AUSTRALIA	
A. Finch lbw b Ngidi	5
T. Head c de Kock b Steyn	1
D. Short c du Plessis b Steyn	0
C. Lynn c de Kock b Phehlukwayo	15
A. Carey c de Kock b Tahir	33
G. Maxwell c Klaasen b Phehlukwayo	11
M. Stoinis c Klaasen b Phehlukwayo	14
P. Cummins run out (Miller)	12
N. Coulter-Nile c Klaasen b Ngidi	34
M. Starc lbw b Tahir	12
J. Hazlewood not out	6
Extras	(b2, lb4, w3) 9
<b>Total</b>	(all out, 38.1 overs) 152
<b>FoW:</b>	1-4 (Head), 2-4 (Short), 3-8 (Finch), 4-36 (Lynn), 5-48 (Maxwell), 6-66 (Stoinis), 7-89 (Cummins), 8-107 (Carey), 9-140 (Starc), 10-152 (Coulter-Nile)
<b>Bowling:</b>	Steyn 7-18-2, Ngidi 8-13-26-2, Rabada 8-0-30-0, Phehlukwayo 6-0-33-3 (w3), Tahir 9-0-39-2
SOUTH AFRICA	
Q. de Kock c Hazlewood b Coulter-Nile	47
R. Hendricks c Lynn b Stoinis	44
A. Markram b Stoinis	36
F. du Plessis not out	10
H. Klaasen c Finch b Stoinis	2
D. Miller not out	2
Extras	(b1, lb4, w7) 12
<b>Total</b>	(4 wickets, 29.2 overs) 153
<b>FoW:</b>	1-94 (De Kock), 2-122 (Hendricks), 3-143 (Markram), 4-151 (Klaasen)
<b>Bowling:</b>	Hazlewood 8-2-41-0, Coulter-Nile 3-0-26-1, Starc 8-0-47-0, Cummins 6-2-18-0, Stoinis 4.2-11-6-3
<b>RESULT:</b>	South Africa won by 6 wickets

3RD T20I

# Record-setting Azam leads Pakistan to another T20 series sweep



Pakistan's Babar Azam became the quickest batsman to reach 1,000 Twenty20 runs. (AFP)

AFP  
Dubai

Babar Azam became the quickest batsman to reach 1,000 Twenty20 runs as Pakistan whitewashed New Zealand 3-0 with a comfortable 47-run win in the third and final match in Dubai yesterday. The 24-year-old – ranked number one in Twenty20s – hit a punishing 58-ball 79 with seven boundaries and two sixes while Mohamed Hafeez hit a 34-ball 53 not out with two sixes and four boundaries to lift Pakistan to 166-3 at Dubai stadium. Pakistan spinners Shadab Khan (3-30) and Imad Wasim (2-28) then hastened New Zealand's demise to 119 all out in 16.5 overs as the Kiwis lost their last eight wickets for just 23 runs. This also becomes Pakistan's second series whitewash after romping past Australia 3-0 last Sunday. Kane Williamson top-scored for New Zealand with a 38-ball 60, with eight boundaries and two sixes, while opener Glenn Phillips made 26. Azam, when on 48, completed 1,000 runs in Twenty20 internationals in just 26 innings, bettering India's Virat Kohli's record of reaching the mark in 27 innings. Azam's rise has matched Pakistan's elevation to the world number one ranking in Twenty20 internationals since making his debut against England at Old Trafford in 2016, when Sarfraz Ahmed took charge as captain. Since then Pakistan have won 29 of their 33 Twenty20 internationals with only four defeats,

taking their tally this year to 17 wins in 19 matches with two defeats. Sunday also represented Pakistan's ninth T20 win in succession since losing to Australia at Harare in July this year. Williamson and Phillips added 83 for the third wicket after New Zealand lost big-hitting Colin Munro for two and Colin de Grandhomme for six. But once both were dismissed in the same Shadab over, the innings fell apart, with only Ish Sodhi reaching double figures with 11. Ross Taylor (seven), Mark Chapman (two) and Tim Seifert (nought) also fell in quick succession with debutant birthday boy Waqas Maqsood also chipping in with 2-21. Earlier, Azam and Hafeez set the tone for Pakistan's big total after they won the toss, adding 94 runs for the second wicket after Fakhar Zaman fell for 11. Hafeez smashed two sixes off leg-spinner Sodhi's 11th over of the innings while Azam smacked two sixes off Munro to complete 100 runs in the 15th over. Azam registered his eighth fifty in Twenty20 cricket while Hafeez's half century was his tenth in the shortest format. Shoaib Malik made nine-ball 19 with three boundaries. Pakistan won the first match by two runs in Abu Dhabi and the second by six wickets in Dubai. **BRIEF SCORES:** Pakistan 166 for 3 (Babar Azam 79, Mohamed Hafeez 53 not out) beat New Zealand 119 all out (Kane Williamson 60; Shadab Khan 3-30, Waqas Maqsood 2-21, Imad Wasim 2-28) by 47 runs

1ST T20I

# Karthik, Pandya secure India's nervy win

Reuters  
Kolkata

Dinesh Karthik anchored a tricky chase with a measured unbeaten 31 as India beat West Indies by five wickets in the first Twenty20 International to go 1-0 up in the three-match series yesterday. Having restricted West Indies to a below-par 109-8, India suffered a top order collapse of their own but Karthik stayed put to guide the hosts home with 13 balls to spare at Kolkata's Eden Gardens. All-rounder Krunal Pan-

dya made a memorable debut, claiming the important wicket of Kieron Pollard before returning to score 21 not out off just nine balls, including the winning runs. Despite the presence of a host of swashbuckling batsmen on both sides, the bowler-dominated contest featured only two sixes – one from each team. Put into bat, the first 49 runs cost West Indies the top half of their batting order at the midway stage of their innings. Opener Shai Hope fell victim to a comical run out when he and Shimron Hetmyer both ended up being on the non-striker's end. Hetmyer outprinted Hope



to secure his wicket but could not make the most of it and fell for 10. Pollard hit the only six of the innings but Pandya sent him back before the batsman could inflict more damage on the Indians.

Kuldeep Yadav then ripped the heart out of the West Indies middle order with his triple strikes as the touring batsmen struggled to read the unorthodox left-arm spinner. Fabian Allen topscored for the tourists with 27 to take them past the 100-mark. India's reply was equally wobbly with the hosts looking ill at ease against the pace of Oshane Thomas. Bowling consistently over 145 kph, the paceman drew first blood when he dismissed India captain Rohit Sharma caught behind for six. West Indies successfully reviewed the original not-out deci-

sion after the on-field umpire had failed to detect the slight edge. Thomas devoured Shikhar Dhawan, the other opener, with another thunderbolt and then skipper Carlos Brathwaite struck twice to jolt the hosts. Karthik first revived India's chase with Manish Pandey (19) and then found an able ally in Pandya, whose clever and nerveless batting stood out. **BRIEF SCORES:** West Indies 109 for 8 (Fabian Allen 27; Kuldeep Yadav 3-13) lost to India 110 for 5 (Dinesh Karthik 31 not out, Krunal 21 not out; Carlos Brathwaite 2-11, Oshane Thomas 2-21) by five wickets



## MOTORCYCLING

# Marquez wins in Malaysia as Rossi crashes out of lead

Pole-sitter Zarco finishes third in baking hot temperatures in Sepang



Repsol Honda Team Spanish rider Marc Marquez celebrates after winning the Malaysia MotoGP at the Sepang International Circuit in Malaysia yesterday.

AFP  
Sepang

World champion Marc Marquez fought his way from seventh place on the starting grid to win the Malaysian MotoGP yesterday, as Valentino Rossi crashed out while leading four laps from the end.

Suzuki's Alex Rins came in second after overtaking Yamaha rider Johann Zarco, who finished third, in the final stage of a hard-fought race at Sepang in baking hot temperatures.

Italian star Rossi, a nine-time world champion who has struggled recently to find form against younger foes, appeared on course for his first win in Malaysia since 2010 after a strong

start from second on the grid put him firmly in the lead.

But Honda's Marquez, who won the world title last month for the fifth time in motorcycling's premier class, methodically fought his way up through the pack after beginning near the back.

The Spaniard, who qualified in pole position but was hit with a six-place grid penalty for impeding another rider, made it to second place and was starting to close the gap on Rossi, 39.

It looked like the final stage of the Malaysian Grand Prix would be a classic battle between two MotoGP titans known for their fierce rivalry.

But as he rounded a sharp turn on the 16th lap, Yamaha rider Rossi leaned over too far and tumbled off his bike — ef-

fectively handing victory to his 25-year-old foe.

Rossi, who has won in the premier class at Sepang on five previous occasions, got back on his bike but only managed to finish a lacklustre 18th.

"It is a great, great shame, I am very disappointed for the mistake," admitted a crestfallen Rossi, who has not won a race this season.

"It is frustrating." But he tried to look on the bright side: "It is the best race of the season for me, it is also coming in a difficult condition and a difficult track for us. This is important."

Marquez cruised to a comfortable victory in 40 min 32.372 sec, with Rins and Zarco left far behind battling it out for second place.

Marquez, who notched up his ninth win of the season Sunday and his first in Malaysia since 2014, said that fighting his way up from the back was not easy.

"It was a very, very hard race," he said, but added that having the odds stacked against with a third row start proved to be an "extra motivation".

It is not the first time this season that Marquez has lost his pole position due to a penalty, and nevertheless gone on to victory.

At the Grand Prix of the Americas in April, he was demoted from first to fourth on the starting grid after being punished for disturbing another rider in qualifying.

He went on to win that race for the sixth consecutive time. Ducati's Andrea Dovizioso,

the winner in Malaysia in 2016 and 2017, could only manage sixth but retains second place in the overall standings, with Rossi's crash leaving the Italian in third with one race remaining.

Conditions were dry after organisers shifted the MotoGP two hours earlier following a delay to Saturday's qualifying session caused by a tropical downpour.

However many riders struggled in the soaring temperatures.

The 2016 and 2017 editions of the MotoGP took place during heavy downpours.

In the Moto2 class, Italy's Francesco Bagnaia won the world title while Jorge Martin from Spain was crowned world champion in the Moto3 category.

## CYCLING

# Wasiak, Melville top second race of Qatar MTB League

By Sports Reporter  
Doha

Szymon Wasiak and Julie Melville won the second race of the 2018-2019 Qatar MTB League on Friday at the Losail International Circuit motocross route.

The recent heavy rains had flooded many parts of the 5km race route, which was previously also a venue for the Qatar's Cross-Country Rally super special stage, and the event was in danger of being cancelled.

However, last minute changes, including building a temporary bridge to cross the water channel, by the organisers — UFMBO and Qatar Cycling Federation — made the event possible.

Nonetheless, in some parts of the course, the water was unavoidable and the riders had to tackle the puddles, muddy patches and streams of water which made this race challenging.

First and last part of the course also featured elements of motocross route, appreciated by 150 riders who started the race.

Australian Melville of Rasen Sports took the lead of the women's open race until she suffered a puncture half-way. After changing the wheel, she fell back to fourth. However, she slowly gained back the lead and with a hard lap, won by more than two minutes in front of April Frange (APO bikers Qatar) and Olga Robes (Ten-O-Mile), both of the Philippines.

Men's open race was intense from the start. Polish rider Wasiak (UCI coaches) had a fast start and was feeling comfortable at the front until he crashed on a technical section of the course. He was caught by Briton Tom Whateley (Velostar). Both riders rode together for the last few laps. A close sprint decided the winner with Wasiak taking the honours.

Third place was also fought hard with Lebanese Marc Mourad (Rasen Sports) winning the hair pin corner and uphill sprint finish with Clark Andrada (SMCC Apo Lakay) of the Philippines finishing fourth.

Earlier in the day, first start were the Beginners and

Kids aged under 16 who had to tackle one lap. The beginner's race was won by Filipino rider Veejay Juelar (Team Pogi + Ganda), while the top woman was Lea Legan from Slovenia.

Kids U16 race was won by Indonesian Aditya Prasetyo. Participation in the kids race has seen a growth compared to previous races.

The other two races (Age group, All Women and Open) were 1-hour 'do as many laps as you can' mini endurance race format.

In an U23 race, Qatar national team rider Bilal al-Saadi took the honours, followed by his teammate Mohamed Abou-gabarah and Filipino Johndale Galang (BPMQ).

U40 race was dominated by Qatari nationals Marwan al-Jalham and Mubarak al-Alajji (both team Rasen Sports) in front of Filipino rider Justo Jumel (BPMQ).

U50 race saw an all-Filipino podium with Revelito Pasion (SMCC Apo Lakay) winning ahead of Renante Siatan (El Padyakero) in second and Nelson Mabag (Colorumboys) in third.

50+ race podium was also all Filipino which was won by Ronnie Saclin (SMCC Apo Lakay), Franklin Rubin (BPMQ) and Joel Marmolejo (El Padyakero) came second and third respectively.

Contestants from the Philippines also locked out the Women Weekend Warrior category with sisters Alessandra and Katrian Agcaoil finishing first and second respectively, with their teammate Veronica Inserto (all El Padyakero) in third.

Qatar Cycling and Triathlon Federation secretary-general Jamal al-Kuwari gave away the prizes.

The organisers thanked the Losail Circuit Sports Club, and sponsors Rayyan Water and Rasen Adventure Shop. The organisers intimated that the Ministry of Culture and Sports through the Qatar Sports For All Federation is now supporting UFMBO in its community events such as the Qatar MTB League races. The third event of the Qatar Mountain Bike League will happen at the end of this month in Al Khor.



The winners pose with their medals.

## Larmour scores hat-trick as Ireland win big

Chicago: Ireland fullback Jordan Larmour scored a hat-trick of tries and lock Tadhg Beirne two as Joe Schmidt's side hammered Italy 54-7 in Chicago on Saturday.

Schmidt fielded an experimental team missing many of the players who won the Six Nations Grand Slam this year and the Italians made it tough in the opening period, despite Beirne grabbing his first try in the third minute.

Scrumhalf Luke McGrath, centre Garry Ringrose and substitute hooker Sean Cronin all touched down for Ireland, with Joey Carbery adding five conversions and Ross Byrne two as the Irish led 14-7 at the break before running riot in the second half.

Italy captain Michele Campagnaro intercepted a wayward

pass by Rhys Ruddock and sped away for a first-half try for Italy that was converted by Carlo Canna, but the Irish proved far too strong in the second period as they cruised to a big win.

Larmour used his blistering pace and deft footwork to set up McGrath for Ireland's second try in the 32nd minute of an error-strewn first half.

Campagnaro's try just before the break gave Italy hope, but when Beirne went over for his second try three minutes into the second half it heralded the start of 40 unanswered points from the Irish.

"We knew we were inaccurate at times and didn't pick up the tempo. We knew we wanted to pick up the tempo in the second half," Ireland captain Ruddock said.

## HORSE RACING

# Enable makes Turf history

AFP  
Los Angeles

Enable cemented her superstar status with an unprecedented Turf triumph and Accelerate gave trainer John Sadler a first Breeders' Cup winner in the Classic as the \$30mn racing extravaganza returned to Churchill Downs.

Enable, the four-year-old filly trained by John Gosden, became the first horse to win the Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe and the 1 1/2-mile Breeders' Cup Turf in the same year, succeeding in completing the double where eight before her had failed.

Frankie Dettori was masterful in guiding Enable to victory in the \$4mn race, finding good ground out wide on the rain-softened turf track and prevailing in a thrilling stretch duel with Magical.

"She conquered America!" Dettori crowed after Enable tri-



Frankie Dettori celebrates in the winner's circle after riding Enable to victory in the Longines Breeders' Cup Turf at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky.

umphed by three-quarters of a length, becoming just the fourth filly to win the race.

Ryan Moore, riding the Aidan O'Brien-trained Magical, pushed hard in the stretch, Enable finally taking control in the final furlong.

The two jockeys briefly clasped hands as they galloped

out — Sadler's Joy a distant third nine lengths back.

"It was a wonderful, wonderful stretch run between two great fillies and two great jockeys," Gosden said.

"I thought coming into the straight, when Ryan came up on her, we had a race on our hands. She showed enormous courage

to win."

Enable's unprecedented double was all the more remarkable given her difficult season. Sidelined by injury until September, she raced just once before seizing a second straight Arc win.

In between, Gosden said, she battled a fever.

"It was a big ask for our filly, and she greatly deserved it," Gosden said. "She's had a difficult year and really it's amazing she's here today."

Enable was one of three European raiders to come away with victories at Churchill Downs as the Louisville, Kentucky, track hosted the Breeders' Cup for the first time since 2011.

Charlie Appleby saddled juvenile Turf winner Line of Duty on Friday, and Dettori rode Michael Stoute's Expert Eye to victory in the Mile on the turf track on Saturday.

But the \$6mn Classic went to California-based Accelerate — giving Sadler a first Breeders' Cup winner in his 45th attempt. "Feels really good," said Sa-

dlar, who admitted the constant questions about his Breeders' Cup record had become "a point of irritation".

Having seen his Catapult narrowly denied by Expert Eye in the Mile, Sadler could finally celebrate.

"I'm thrilled, no doubt," Sadler said. "I mean, this is what I do every day, every year for my whole career, so to really get the big one, I couldn't ask for a better day."

With Joel Rosario in the irons, Accelerate took the lead entering the final straight, emerging from the middle of a 14-horse field that was led by O'Brien's Mendelssohn through the first quarter and around the final turn.

Mendelssohn, finally, couldn't hold off 5-2 favorite Accelerate, who surged home to win by a length from 28-1 shot Gunnevera.

Godolphin's Thunder Snow, the Dubai World Cup winner, challenged late but finished third, 1 3/4 lengths back.

NBA

# Lakers snap Portland losing skid, Oladipo powers Pacers

AFP  
Los Angeles

LeBron James scored 28 points as the Los Angeles Lakers snapped a 16-game losing streak to the Portland Trail Blazers by holding on for a 114-110 win on Saturday. James also added seven assists and Rajon Rondo came off the bench to deliver 17 points and 10 assists for the Lakers who led by 17 points in the third quarter.

The Lakers would squander that big lead but somehow managed to overcome their late mistakes and hold on for the win thanks to James' free-throw shooting and some clutch baskets by JaVale McGee.

The Trail Blazers had won 16 straight against the Lakers dating to December 2014.

"We haven't had a lot of success against this team either at home or away for long time so this is a really good win," said James.

"We haven't played that well on the road. It was good for us to come into one of most hostile buildings in the Western Conference and win."

Damian Lillard and CJ McCollum each scored 30 points for Portland.

The Lakers seized a 17-point lead in the third after a 16-0 run but the Blazers answered with

RESULTS

San Antonio	109-95	New Orleans
Atlanta	123-118	Miami
Charlotte	126-94	Cleveland
Indiana	102-101	Boston
Portland	110-114	LA Lakers
Denver	103-88	Utah
Chicago	88-96	Houston
Philadelphia	109-99	Detroit

a 22-8 surge to cut the margin to just six points with 3:34 left on the clock

Sloppy play once again came back to hurt the Lakers as they committed seven turnovers in the fourth quarter and finished with 20 overall, but somehow managed to hang on.

Elsewhere, Victor Oladipo drained a clutch three pointer with three seconds left on the clock as the Indiana Pacers cooled off the red-hot Boston Celtics with a dramatic 102-101 victory. The second year all-star Oladipo finished with 24 points and 12 rebounds for the Pacers who trailed by four points with 37 seconds to go before charging back.



Los Angeles Lakers guard Josh Hart shoots the ball over Portland Trail Blazers' Zach Collins and Meyers Leonard during the second half of their game on Saturday.

Marcus Morris had a team-high 23 points and six rebounds for the Celtics, who shot 43% overall in a tightly-contested game in front of a crowd of 17,500 at Bankers Life Fieldhouse arena. Indiana trailed 101-97 after Boston's Kyrie Irving hit a

three-pointer with 37 seconds remaining.

Oladipo was fouled by Jaylen Brown with 29 seconds left and made both free throws to cut the Celtic lead to 101-99.

With the clock winding down, Oladipo seized a

defensive rebound and dribbled up the court before stopping on the right side and nailing a three pointer over top of Boston center Al Horford. On the next Boston possession, Gordon Hayward in-bounded and had his pass deflected and stolen by Oladipo, who tossed the ball up to begin the victory celebration.

Elsewhere, James Harden scored 25 points in his return to the Houston lineup, and the Rockets defeated the Chicago Bulls 96-88.

The NBA's reigning MVP Harden scored 11 straight points in a two minute span of the third quarter as the Rockets won on a 15-0 run.

Harden had missed three games with a sore left hamstring, suffering the injury in a loss to Utah on October 24. Harden started slowly in his return to the lineup. He didn't score until completing a driving layup with 3:55 left in the second quarter. Then he hit back-to-back shots from beyond the arc. Houston won their second game in as many nights after beginning the season a dismal 1-5.

In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid continued to manhandle other teams around the NBA, scoring a game high 39 points and snagging 17 rebounds to lead the Philadelphia 76ers to a 109-99 win over the Detroit Pistons.

Embiid scored 32 points in a dominating first half which also saw him make eight of nine shots and 15 of 17 free throws.

GOLF

# Rose regains number one spot with Turkey win

The Englishman defeated China's number 1 Haotong Li at the first extra play-off hole

AFP  
Belek, Turkey

Justin Rose is determined to make his reign as the new world number one a long one after capturing a play-off victory in the Turkish Airlines Open yesterday.

Rose defeated China's No 1 Haotong Li at the first extra play-off hole when the 23-year Shanghai-born golfer three-putted for bogey to hand the Englishman his 19th pro career victory.

The win is also the first time in Rose's career he has successfully defended a title.

"I've had some pressure-packed Sundays of late and dare I say, kind of coming way with consolation prizes in a way," said Rose.

"I went first to World No 1 after losing in a play-off, finishing fourth at the Tour Championship but winning the FedExCup.

"The FedExCup was an interesting one because I knew exactly what I had to do and I was playing a tournament within a tournament.

"But to not having that winning feeling in a tournament but still coming away with accolades. I was keenly aware I wanted to get back in the winner's circle and it was good to get it done today.

"There's always a moving target, isn't it, so you never quite get anywhere. It's a journey; life's a journey, not a destiny and all these beautiful clichés we try to live by.

"Of course, there will be another opportunity to either go further ahead, or



Brooks (Koepka) will have an opportunity or DJ (Dustin Johnson) will have another opportunity to go back to No 1 if they win.

"But then it would be lovely to end the year at No 1 and it will be nice to have Christmas turkey at No 1, of course. I'm not going to stress about it to be honest

with you."

Li went into the final round leading by three shots and after a level par 71 ended regulation play tied with Rose on 17-under par but with Rose bogeying his closing two holes, including missing his par putt at the final hole for victory lipping-out in

a round of 68.

Li had capped his round with a tap-in eagle putt at the par-5 15th but he also three-putted the last for a bogey.

The win lifts Rose to third on the Tour's Race to Dubai and while the Englishman mathematically could still win the No. 1 crown he has disappointed the Tour with a decision not to contest the remaining two events.

Instead Rose will again tee-up in the Tiger Woods hosted Hero World Challenge commencing on November 26 in the Bahamas while he also intends to defend his Indonesian Masters title on the Asian Tour starting on December 13.

"As of now, I am playing the Hero at home, try to roll out of bed for that one, and Indonesia," he said.

"I have also a few other things I need to take care of."

Li was looking to create Tour history in becoming the first Chinese golfer to win twice in a single European Tour season and while finishing runner-up, he looks assured of being just outside the top-40 on the World Rankings.

It should also ensure Li earns a second straight invitation at the end of the year to contest the 2019 Masters at Augusta National.

"It was tough day for me honestly and I holed a couple chances, but not until the end, the first playoff, I saw that ball definitely go in, but a little bit too much," he said.

"I was a pretty good last round, especially against Rosey, and he is such a nice guy. Hopefully next time I can play better."

FOCUS

# DeChambeau, Uihlein share Vegas PGA lead, Glover charges

AFP  
Los Angeles

Bryson DeChambeau, seeking his fourth US PGA title of the year, fired a bogey-free six-under par 65 on Saturday to share the lead after three rounds of the Shriners for Children Open.

DeChambeau, returning to competition a month after playing for the losing US squad at the Ryder Cup in France, matched fellow American Peter Uihlein atop the leaderboard on 16-under 197 through 54 holes at TPC Summerlin in Las Vegas, Nevada.

"If I putt well tomorrow, I'll be tough to beat," DeChambeau said. "If I don't, a lot of things can happen."

Lucas Glover, the 2009 US Open champion, fired a 61 to stand one stroke behind the co-leaders, with defending champion Patrick Cantlay and Robert Streb both on 199 and Cameron Champ, a rookie who won his first US PGA title last week in Mississippi, completing an all-USA top six on 200.

"You're going to have to make a lot of birdies," Uihlein said of the final round. "You're going to have to go low. You're going to have to get after it."

After winning his first tour title at last year's John Deere Clas-

sic, DeChambeau captured three more at this year's Memorial and two US PGA playoff events, the Northern Trust and Dell Technologies Championship.

A three-foot birdie putt at the fourth and a tap-in birdie at the par-5 ninth gave DeChambeau a solid start. He closed with four birdies in the last six holes, including a 15-footer at the par-3 14th and a four-footer at 18.

"We're still doing our work every day. Get the wind right, the slopes right, execute to the best of our ability," DeChambeau said. "Was able to not make too many mistakes today. Glad we got it right."

Uihlein sank four birdie putts from three to six feet but found a bunker on his approach and took his lone bogey at the par-4 10th. "I didn't feel like I did anything great but I didn't feel like I did anything that shot me in the foot," Uihlein said.

"It was a pretty steady round. I didn't hit it that close so I didn't have that many opportunities at birdies."

Glover, who has not won since the 2011 Wells Fargo Championship, fired seven birdies and two eagles after an opening bogey. He closed by putting in an eagle from 45 feet at the ninth hole.

Chile's Joaquin Niemann aced the 175-yard par-3 17th hole on the fly on his way to shooting 67 to stand on 204.

LPGA

# Japanese teen Hataoka wins Japan Classic



AFP  
Tokyo

Japanese teenager Nasa Hataoka shot a dazzling five-under 67 to win the Japan Classic by finishing 54 holes at Seta Golf Club in Shiga. "I'm glad to win here in Japan," Hataoka said before a big crowd adding that she had faced "a challenge" after back-to-back bogeys at the 11th and 12th.

The diminutive 19-year-old, who is just 1.58 metres (5ft 2in) tall, sank further birdies at the par-four

14th and par-five last hole to seal the victory.

"I was able to play calmly from the 13th hole," a smiling Hataoka said as she kissed the winner's trophy. In June, Hataoka became the 14th Japanese player to win an LPGA title by finishing 54 holes at Pinnacle Country Club in Rogers, Arkansas, on 21-under par 192, the lowest score in tournament history. Local favourite Momoko Ueda, who won the Japan Classic in 2011, shot five birdies with a bogey for a 68 to share second place with Japan's Saki Nagamine and Spain's Carlota Ciganda.

China's Feng Shanshan, the two-time defending champion, shot 72 to be tied 30th, and newly crowned world number one Ariya Jutanugarn was at tied 19th after carding a 69.

NHL

# Fleury's 50th career shutout lifts Vegas over Carolina

Agencies  
New York

Marc-Andre Fleury had 34 saves to register his 50th career shutout and lead the Vegas Golden Knights to a 3-0 victory over the Carolina Hurricanes on Saturday night in Las Vegas.

It was also the 410th career victory for Fleury, who moved into a tie with Chris Osgood for 28th place on the NHL career shutouts list.

William Carrier, Ryan Reaves and Brad Hunt each scored goals and Erik Haula had two assists for Vegas, which snapped



The Vegas Golden Knights mascot Chance the Golden Gila Monster bows down to Marc-Andre Fleury after he was named the first star of the game on Saturday.

a two-game losing streak and won for just the second time in six games.

Scott Darling, making just his second start of the season, had 22 saves for the Hurricanes, who were playing the second half of a back-to-back that began with a 4-3 overtime loss at Arizona on Friday night.

Hunt gave Vegas a 1-0 lead at the 14:11 mark of the first period, cutting in front of the net and then putting in Haula feed from the right corner for his first goal of the season. It was also just the second goal by a defenseman for the Golden Knights.

Reaves made it 2-0 early in the second period when he backhanded a rebound of a Shea

Theodore shot through Darling's pads. It was the fourth goal of the season for Reaves, matching his total in 79 games for the entire 2017-18 season. Reaves' career high for goals is seven.

Carrier scored his first goal of the season early in the third period to increase the Vegas lead to 3-0, tapping in a rebound from in front of the net under Darling's right pad.

Carolina twice had a chance to break the shutout on a power play midway through the period. Justin Williams actually knocked a rebound of a Dougie Hamilton shot that hit the crossbar into the net, but it was with his glove hand and

the goal was disallowed.

About a minute later, Micheal Ferland fired a shot off the far post from inside the right circle.

Carolina pulled Darling with 3:02 left but failed to manage a shot on goal.

RESULTS

BUFFALO	.....9	Ottawa	.....2
Tampa Bay	.....4	MONTREAL	.....1
Edmonton	.....4	DETROIT	.....3
NY ISLANDERS	.....3	New Jersey	.....0
Toronto	.....5	PITTSBURGH	.....0
Dallas	.....4	WASHINGTON	.....3
Minnesota	.....5	ST. LOUIS	.....1
NASHVILLE	.....1	Boston	.....0
LAS VEGAS	.....3	Carolina	.....0
CALGARY	.....5	Chicago	.....3
LOS ANGELES	.....4	Columbus	.....1
SAN JOSE	.....4	Philadelphia	.....3

## SPOTLIGHT

# Immobile brace helps Lazio climb to fourth in Serie A

Allegri hails 'leader' Ronaldo as Juve hold off Cagliari to stay clear

AFP  
Milan

Ciro Immobile scored two early goals as Lazio beat SPAL 4-1 to move fourth in Serie A and into the Champions League places yesterday. Simone Inzaghi's side bounced back from a 3-0 home defeat to Inter Milan to move ahead of AC Milan, who were playing in Udinese last night. Immobile scored after 26 and 35 minute to bring his tally to eight league goals this season with Danilo Cataldi (59) and Marco Parolo (70) adding two more in the second half. Lazio with 21 points from 11 games are ten points behind leaders Juventus, who continued their unbeaten run with a 3-1 win over Cagliari on Saturday.

Inter Milan crushed Genoa 5-0 on Saturday to reclaim second spot on goal difference ahead of Napoli, who had eased past Empoli 5-1 on Friday, and keep the pressure on the seven-time reigning champions. "We had to redeem ourselves after the knockout against Inter," said Inzaghi, whose side are now five points ahead of city rivals Roma, who were held 1-1 by Fiorentina on Saturday. "Today's three points are very important for us in terms of ranking. The lads remained united and compact without suffering the psychological backlash (of defeat to Inter)."

Watched by Italy coach Roberto Mancini, Italian international Immobile volleyed in the first after 26 minutes off a Cataldi corner, past SPAL goalkeeper Vanja Milinkovic-Savic, brother of Lazio midfielder Sergej, who was also playing at the Stadio Olimpico.

But the celebrations were short lived with Mirco Antenucci tapping in the equaliser for SPAL two minutes later. Vanja Milinkovic-Savic denied Immobile from close range and Sergej Milinkovic-Savic fired over before Immobile's second. Felipe Caicedo broke through the SPAL defence and set up Immobile,

whose shot took a deflection off Filippo Costa over the SPAL goalkeeper. Blunders by SPAL's Brazilian defender Everton Luiz allowed Cataldi and Parolo to break through in the second half, but Immobile was denied a hat-trick by the woodwork. SPAL, a club from Ferrara in Emilia-Romagna, stay 15th after their seventh defeat of the season.

In Genoa, Torino moved one point off the Europa League places in seventh with a 4-1 win over Sampdoria.

Andrea Belotti scored two, nodding in the first after 12 minutes and the second from the penalty spot before the break, with Iago Falque (56) and Armando Izzo (78) adding another two in the second half. Fabio Quagliarella pulled a goal back on 65 minutes for Sampdoria who are three points off the European berths in tenth.

Sassuolo, meanwhile, inflicted a seventh consecutive defeat on tailenders Chievo with Federico Di Francesco (42) scoring and Emanuele Giaccherini turning into his own net in injury time.

Struggling Frosinone held midtable Parma to a goalless draw in a bad-tempered game in Emilia-Romagna with Leo Stulac send off from the hosts in the second half for a reckless challenge on Raman Chibсах.

On Saturday, Massimiliano Allegri praised Cristiano Ronaldo's leadership skills after Juventus' 10th win in 11 games. Paulo Dybala scored after just 44 seconds, with a Filip Bradaric own-goal accounting for Juventus' second after 39 minutes, two minutes after Joao Pedro had pulled the Sardinians level. Ronaldo failed to add to his seven-goal league tally for new club Juventus with the Portuguese superstar hitting the woodwork before next week's Champions League visit by former club Manchester United. But the 33-year-old's pass across goal set up Colombian Juan Cuadrado for his first of the season three minutes from time in the Allianz Stadium. "He has always been a leader and an extraordinary player, as you saw



Lazio's forward Ciro Immobile celebrates after scoring against Spal during the the Italian Serie A match in Rome yesterday. (AFP)

from the assist he put on Cuadrado's foot," said Allegri. "These are different players who in the decisive moment always come up with a goal or a great pass."

It is the best ever start to a season for the Turin giants who have drawn just

one game against Genoa.

#### ITALIAN SERIE A RESULTS

Lazio 4 (Immobile 26, 35, Cataldi 59, Parolo 70) SPAL 1 (Antenucci 28); Sampdoria 1 (Quagliarella 65) Torino 4 (Belotti

12, 43-pen, Falque 56, Izzo 78); Parma 0 Frosinone 0 Chievo 0 Sassuolo 2 (Di Francesco 42, Giaccherini 90+4-og); Bologna 1 (Mbaye 3) Atalanta 2 (Mancini 57, Zapata 70)

Played Saturday: Inter Milan 5 (Gagliardini 14, 49, Politano 16, Joao Mario 90+1,

Nianguolan 90+4); Genoa 0 Fiorentina 1 (Veretout 33-pen) Roma 1 (Florenzi 85); Juventus 3 (Dybala 1, Bradaric 38-og, Cuadrado 87) Cagliari 1 (Joao Pedro 36)

Played Friday Napoli 5 (Insigne 9, Mertens 38, 64, 90+3), Milik 90) Empoli 1 (Caputo 58)

#### LA LIGA

## Barca snatch victory against Rayo

Reuters  
Madrid

Late goals from Ousmane Dembele and Luis Suarez earned La Liga champions Barcelona a 3-2 win at struggling Rayo Vallecano on Saturday night to keep them clear at the top of the standings. Ernesto Valverde's side lead La Liga with 24 points, four ahead of Atletico Madrid. Alaves could have moved within one point if they had beaten Eibar last night, but they went down 1-2 in an away match.

Suarez slotted in a cross from Jordi Alba from close range to give Barca a deserved lead in the 11th minute after they had made a flying start at a ground where they had eased to victory in their previous five visits and had not lost since 2002.

But Rayo, 19th in the table and with only one win all season, fought their way back into the game and midfielder Jose Pozo smashed an equaliser in off the post in the 35th minute. Rayo winger Alvaro Garcia sent the raucous home fans into delirium early in the second half by stabbing his side in front on the rebound after striker Raul de Thomas had struck the post with a diving header.

Barca might have had a sense of deja vu from their shock 2-1 defeat in Madrid by Leganes two months ago in which they also threw away the lead, and the Catalans adopted no nonsense tactics to get back into the game, throwing defender Gerard Pique up front and playing frequent high balls into the box. Substitute Dembele got Barca out of trouble with a perfectly struck half volley in the 87th minute after a knockdown by Pique. Suarez, who scored a hat-trick in last week's drubbing of Real Madrid, completed the comeback three minutes later by arriving at the far post to steer in a cross from Sergi Roberto, striking a fifth goal in two games and a ninth in total to move top of the league's scoring charts. "Obviously, we are happy because the game was going uphill for us," Barca coach Ernesto Valverde said.

"We were good at the start but as they continued to lock up at the back we started to have difficulties so we approached the game in a different way. We might not have had the game under control, but in the end we got our reward."

Valverde did not think his side should be criticised for making hard work of a trip to a team fighting relegation. "When Rayo are at home they have a lot of reasons to believe they can do something, they have quality players and it's not like it's only us playing and that's the, the opponents play too and they fight very hard," he said.



Barcelona's forward Luis Suarez celebrates after scoring a goal against Rayo Vallecano in the La Liga at the Vallecas stadium in Madrid on Saturday. (AFP)

Valverde's side lead La Liga with 24 points, four ahead of Atletico Madrid. Alaves could have moved within one point if they beat Eibar last night, but they went down 1-2 in an away match. Rayo coach Michel meanwhile cursed his side's inability to deal with Barca's late onslaught. "Football is sometimes unfair but we have a lot of things to improve," he said. "Barca may be a great team but they beat us tonight with basic football and we need to do a lot better we keep on conceding goals like the ones we let in tonight."

#### BARCA INCLUDE MESSI IN SQUAD TO FACE INTER MILAN

Lionel Messi has been included in Barcelona's travelling squad to face Inter Milan in the Champions League tomorrow. Messi broke his arm during Barca's win over Sevilla on October 20, with the club predicting he would be out for three weeks.

The striker has not yet been declared fit

by Barcelona's medical team but he will travel with the squad to the San Siro. "Leo Messi travels to Milan without the medical all-clear," the club posted on their Twitter.

Messi had trained the same day, along with other players not involved in victory over Rayo Vallecano. Barcelona have won all of their last four matches without Messi, including a 2-0 win over Inter at the Camp Nou last month. They sit three points ahead of the Italians at the top of Group B.

#### LA LIGA RESULTS

Eibar 2 (Jordan 69, Diop 90+1) Alaves 1 (Garcia 4); Villarreal 1 (Pedraza 90+3) Levante 1 (Funes Mori 77-og)

Played Saturday: Leganes 1 (Carrillo 82) Atletico Madrid 1 (Griezmann 69); Real Madrid 2 (Olivas 83-og, Ramos 88-pen) Real Valladolid 0; Valencia 0 Girona 1 (Pons 48); Rayo Vallecano 2 (Pozo 35, Garcia 57) Barcelona 3 (Suarez 11, 89, Dembele 87)

#### LIGUE 1

## Coach Henry still winless as Monaco lose at Reims

AFP  
Paris

Thierry Henry is still waiting for his first win since taking charge at Monaco after his team fell to a seventh league defeat of the season in a 1-0 loss at Reims. A cool finish on 24 minutes from Mathieu Cafaro gave Reims all three points and left Henry without a victory in four matches following his appointment as Monaco coach.

Both sides finished with 10 men as Alaixys Romao was shown a straight red card for a high challenge on Youssef Ait Benmasser, before Monaco saw Guinea-Bissau international Pele sent off for two bookings.

"It wasn't about the tactics tonight. The desire wasn't there," said Henry. "Reims won the battles on the pitch and when you don't win them, you can't win whatever the level or league."

Monaco, who won the French

title in 2017, remain second from bottom after an alarming run that has yielded just one win in all competitions this season. Guingamp, unbeaten in their past five league outings, lost to Nantes 0-5 yesterday to remain at the foot of the table.

"It's more worrying than the defeat at Strasbourg," added Henry, referring to the 2-1 loss he suffered in his first game at the helm last month. "Little of the play, not many chances and lots of duels lost. We were 11 against 10 but then we punish ourselves with the red card. We're not managing these types of things well at the moment."

Henry will now briefly switch his focus to Monaco's flagging Champions League campaign, with one final chance to revive their hopes of reaching the knockout phase when they host Club Brugge tomorrow.

Lyon captain Nabil Fekir started on his return from a month out with an ankle injury in a 1-1 draw at home to Bordeaux.

Houssem Aouar volleyed in a right-wing cross from Fekir to give Lyon the lead on the stroke of half-time, but Bordeaux earned a point following a 73rd-minute equaliser by Danish striker Andreas Cornelius.

Nimes snapped a nine-game winless run with a 4-0 rout of Dijon, while Patrick Vieira Nice's beat Amiens 1-0 after an own goal by Prince-Desir Gouano.

Strasbourg made it five matches without defeat following a 1-1 draw at home to Toulouse, and Senegal winger Ismaila Sarr scored for Rennes in a 2-1 win at Caen.

Montpellier could go second if they beat Marseille on Sunday, after Paris Saint-Germain marched 11 points clear following their 2-1 victory over nearest challengers Lille.

Kylian Mbappe and Neymar scored late goals at the Parc des Princes on Friday as the French champions extended their perfect start to the season with a 12th consecutive win in Ligue 1.

## GALATASARAY, FENERBAHCE POINT FINGERS AFTER MASS BRAWL

Istanbul: Arch Istanbul rivals Fenerbahce and Galatasaray yesterday both claimed to be the aggrieved party after a fractious derby ended in nine cards and a mass brawl extraordinary even by the combustible standards of Turkish football.

Referee Firat Aydinus had already handed out five yellow cards when he blew the whistle on the critical match with the result 2-2 at Galatasaray's stadium on Friday night.

The players then approached the centre circle to shake hands but rather than greeting each other a mass brawl erupted with officials from both sides and

substitutes rushing onto the pitch to get involved.

After the fight, the referee sent off three players and handed out another yellow card.

But there was no sign of contrition from either side after the confrontation, which only served to confirm the harshest stereotypes about the volatile nature of Turkish football. Galatasaray issued a statement slamming the referee, saying that "some referees have a habit of making mistakes concerning the same team" and warning against "referees who provoke with their actions".

Fenerbahce meanwhile outlined five instances, complete

with video evidence, where it said it had been the victim.

It called on the Turkish Football Federation (TFF), whose disciplinary committee is now expected to announce harsh sanctions for both clubs, "to look at every club and player as equal and not privilege anyone."

The game was of critical importance for both sides. Fenerbahce are looking to reassert their season after a dire start that saw them sack Dutch coach Phillip Cocu and languish just above the relegation zone in 15th.

Galatasaray are in second but four points behind leaders Basaksehir of Istanbul.

PREMIER LEAGUE

# Sterling at the double as Man City hit Saints for six

Morata's brace against Crystal Palace sends below-par Chelsea into second ahead of Liverpool

AFP  
Manchester

Raheem Sterling scored twice fresh from agreeing a new five-year contract with Manchester City as the champions swept aside Southampton 6-1 on Sunday to return to the top of the Premier League table. Later, Alvaro Morata also scored twice to take unbeaten Chelsea above Liverpool into second place, but Maurizio Sarri's men made hard work of seeing off Crystal Palace 3-1.

City's Sergio Agüero, with his 150th league goal, David Silva and Leroy Sané were also on the mark as Pep Guardiola's side continued their unbeaten start to their title defence.

"We played excellent, without and especially with the ball," Guardiola said as he insisted there was more to come from England international Sterling. "He is more mature now than he was when we first met at the club...He is 23 and he can be a better player."

Southampton had the minor consolation of becoming the first team in 630 minutes to score against City but the leaders' form is ominous for the rest of the division. City are scoring at a marginally faster rate than they did while racking up a record 106 goals last season, and they made a devastating start at the Etihad that finished the game as a contest within 18 minutes of kick-off.

Five minutes had gone when Agüero orchestrated an attack on the edge of the Southampton area, David Silva then moving the ball on to the overlapping Sané, whose cross was turned into his own goal by Saints' Wesley Hoedt.

It took a further six minutes for City to double the lead, Bernardo Silva setting free Sterling on the right and the England forward selflessly squaring for Agüero to hammer in from close range. It was the Argentine's 150th league goal for City, a landmark that moved him level with Michael Owen in eighth place on the Premier League's all-time goalscoring list. It appeared City were capable of scoring almost at will and a slick move saw them make it three in the 18th minute. Again, Sterling was heavily involved, accepting Bernardo Silva's pass and putting in a cross that was a little too high for Sané but arrived for David Silva, who volleyed in at the far post.

Southampton manager Mark Hughes, whose future has been the subject of increasing speculation following a run that has now seen him win just four of his 19 league games in charge, reacted furiously to yet more appalling defending from his side. "We were poor in that opening period, you have to be resolute to keep back an outstanding City team," said Hughes. "We were a bit lightweight



Manchester City's Raheem Sterling (right) scores against Southampton during the English Premier League match in Manchester yesterday. (AFP)

and didn't deal with one-on-one situations."

Southampton did, however, pull a goal back after half an hour, becoming the first English team to score against City since Newcastle at the Etihad at the start of September. It was a rare mistake from goalkeeper Ederson that led to the Saints goal, the Brazilian diving unnecessarily at the feet of Danny Ings and tripping the forward, who convincingly shot home the penalty.

However there was never a hint that Southampton might be able to launch anything resembling a fightback and City ended the half as they had begun it – by scoring.

David Silva's through ball appeared to be going out of play but Agüero showed impressive persistence to chase and pull it back for Sterling who, first miskicked but then shot past Saints goalkeeper Alex McCarthy from six yards.

Southampton improved at the start of the second half, with James Ward-Prowse and Ings – via wicked deflec-

tion off Fernandinho – forcing Ederson to make fine stops. But City continued to threaten, and Sané almost made it five with a vicious left-foot shot from the edge of the area that struck the bar just after the hour. Sterling did in the 67th minute when he latched onto Agüero's perfectly-weighted pass to score his second goal of the afternoon. Sané completed an impressive individual and team display in stoppage time when he steered in a left-foot shot from 18 yards following another assist from Sterling.

Meanwhile, Chelsea's Morata has now scored four in his last four Premier League games after just two goals in his previous 20 domestic matches, and his return to form could be the final ingredient Sarri's side need to mount a serious title challenge.

The former Real Madrid striker gave Chelsea a barely deserved half-time lead against Palace from an uninspired first 45 minutes. However, Andros Townsend's equaliser and the intro-

duction of Eden Hazard from the bench woke Chelsea from their slumber after the break and Morata restored the hosts' lead before Pedro Rodriguez sealed the three points.

Hazard was only fit enough for a place on the bench on his return from a back injury and his creative spark was badly missed as Chelsea laboured against a well-organised Palace, who also provided a threat on the counter-attack through Wilfried Zaha.

It was Max Meyer who had the visitors' best chance, but the German international, who is still looking for his first Palace goal since a summer move from Schalke, fired over when well-placed on the edge of the area. Chelsea took over half an hour to create anything of note, but Morata took the first opportunity to come his way.

The Spanish international showed a confidence that has been sorely lacking for the majority of his Chelsea career by deftly controlling Pedro's cross before drilling the ball low past Wayne Hen-

nessey.

Sarri is now unbeaten in his first 16 competitive games as Chelsea boss, but will know there is still plenty of room for improvement as a sleepy start to the second-half was punished in the 53rd minute. David Luiz was caught ball watching and Townsend played a quick one-two with James McArthur before firing low past Kepa Arrizabalaga.

It wasn't until Sarri summoned Hazard and Mateo Kovacic from the bench in the 64th minute that Chelsea took control. Hazard's first involvement was to be chopped down midway inside the Palace half, and his free-kick found a way through to Morata, who arrowed a shot into the far corner.

Five minutes later Chelsea had breathing room as Morata again did well to leave Marcos Alonso's cross for the onrushing Pedro to slot home. Morata had the chance to complete a fine display when put clean through by Hazard in stoppage time, but failed to fool Hennessey with his attempted chip.

## Rooney to make England farewell against USA

London: Wayne Rooney is to come out of England retirement for a final one-off appearance against the United States in an international friendly at Wembley this month, the Football Association announced yesterday.

Rooney, a record goalscorer for both Manchester United and England, has not played international football for nearly two years. But the 33-year-old, now based in the United States where he plays for Major League Soccer side DC United in Washington, will wear the Three Lions shirt one last time for the Wembley fixture on November 15.

The match will be called The Wayne Rooney Foundation International in support of the striker's charity aiding disadvantaged children, with England manager Gareth Southgate naming the 33-year-old in his squad. "I am truly humbled and hugely excited to play for England at Wembley again," said Rooney in a statement issued by the FA that billed the game as his "final England appearance".

"I would like to thank Gareth Southgate and The FA for inviting me back and helping to support my Foundation in the process."

The FA added the match would give the Wembley crowd the "chance to show their appreciation of one of England's greats as the curtain comes down on a glittering Three Lions career that spanned three FIFA World Cups and three UEFA European Championships".

Former Everton and United forward Rooney scored 53 goals in 119 England appearances – the most by any outfield player – prior to announcing his retirement from international football in August 2017.

He has scored 12 times for DC United since he joined them after the end of the last English season, following a second spell at boyhood club Everton, and helped them climb from the bottom of the league ladder to the play-offs.



BUNDESLIGA

## Gladbach win pushes Bayern to third

AFP  
Berlin

Thorgan Hazard netted twice as Borussia Mönchengladbach climbed to second place in the Bundesliga table – pushing Bayern Munich down to third – after a 3-0 victory over Fortuna Duesseldorf yesterday.

Defending champions Bayern drop one place after being held to a 1-1 draw at home to Freiburg on Saturday, leaving Munich four points behind leaders Borussia Dortmund, who they face away in a crunch clash next Saturday.

Hazard, younger brother of Chelsea star Eden, has now scored seven goals in as many league games, as Gladbach bounced back from a shock 3-1 league defeat to Freiburg and 5-0 thumping in mid-week at home to Bayer Leverkusen in the German Cup.

It was a deserved win as Hazard netted a penalty at the start of the second-half after winger Alassane Plea had his shot blocked by a stray Fortuna hand.

Soon after defender Tony Jantschke came on for his 200th Bundesliga appearance – all for Gladbach – the hosts celebrated their second goal thanks to some clinical defensive pressing.

When a long-range pass from Fortuna's Alfredo Morales went astray in his own half, Gladbach's attack pounced on the error. The ball was moved quickly to create a four-on-two situation and midfielder Jonas Hofmann slotted home his fifth goal of the season to make it 2-0 on 67 minutes.



Fortuna Duesseldorf's Alfredo Morales (right) and Mönchengladbach's Thorgan Hazard vie for the ball during the Bundesliga match yesterday. (AFP)

### Bayern to face Hertha away in tricky German Cup tie

Meanwhile, Bayern Munich will face a tricky away tie at Hertha Berlin, where they have already lost this season, in the German Cup following yesterday's draw for the last 16. After crashing to a shock 2-0 league defeat at Berlin's Olympic Stadium in September, Niko Kovac's Bayern will return to the capital in February for the next round of the cup.

The draw also threw up several all-Bundesliga ties as current league leaders Borussia Dortmund are at home against Werder Bremen, Schalke will host Fortuna Duesseldorf, who are joint bottom of the Bundes-

liga, while RB Leipzig face VfL Wolfsburg.

There will be a second division side in the quarter-finals as Duisburg have been drawn at home to Paderborn. The teams met in the second Bundesliga on Saturday with hosts Duisburg running out 2-0 winners.

### German Cup last 16 fixtures

To be played on February 5 or 6: Hamburg v Nuremberg, Heidenheim v Bayer Leverkusen, Schalke 04 v Fortuna Duesseldorf, Holstein Kiel v Augsburg, Hertha Berlin v Bayern Munich, Duisburg v Paderborn, Borussia Dortmund v Werder Bremen, RB Leipzig v VfL Wolfsburg

FOCUS

## Leicester players in Bangkok to pay respects to Vichai

AFP  
Bangkok

Players and staff from Leicester City arrived in Bangkok yesterday to attend a mourning rite for the club's chairman Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha, whose death last week in a helicopter crash stunned the Premier League club.

Yesterday marked the second day of a week-long ceremony held at Wat Thepsirin, one of Bangkok's most famous temples which typically serves as the site for funerals of prominent Thais. Over the coming days Thailand's business and political elites are expected to visit the temple to pay their respects, while monks will chant Buddhist verses over the duty-free mogul's body.

Vichai, 60, died last week, along with four others, when his helicopter crashed and burst into flames moments after taking off from Leicester's pitch following a match. His death sent shockwaves through Leicester, where the charismatic Vichai had become a beloved figure in the club and the city – a feat rarely achieved by the Premier League's foreign owners. It was under Vichai's ownership that Leicester crafted one of the biggest fairytales in English football history by winning the 2015/16 Premier League, having started the season as 5,000-1 outsiders for the title.

On Saturday the team played



Leicester City team posing with Aiyawatt Srivaddhanaprabha (centre) son of Leicester City's Thai owner, the late Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha while they pay their respect in Bangkok. (AFP)

at Cardiff City, their first match since his death, with players from both teams coming together to pay their respects before the game. Massive banners featuring Thailand's flag saying "RIP Vichai" moved across the stadium, and the crowd observed a minute of silence. Fans wore T-shirts with Vichai's picture on it, underneath the words "The Boss".

After the match, 13 members of Leicester City boarded a chartered flight to Bangkok. Upon entering the temple, they gave Vichai's family a hug, and then offered up jasmine flowers as they knelt in front of an octagonal bejeweled urn given by the king to pay their final respects to their beloved chairman.

Princess Sirivannavari Nariratana, the daughter of King Maha Vajiralongkorn, also attended the Buddhist rite, arriving about 30

minutes before the start of the recitation ceremony. The first three days of the elaborate ceremony will have royal sponsorship. After the week-long ceremony, Vichai's body will be kept for 100 days before cremation, though a date has yet to be set.

Vichai's company started out with a single store in Bangkok; today, his King Power empire includes a monopoly over the duty-free shops in Thailand's tourist-heavy airports.

Vichai leaves behind a wife and four children, two sons and two daughters. The four other crash victims were identified by British police as Nursara Suknamai – an actress and a runner-up in Miss Thailand Universe in 2005 – and Kaveporn Punnare, both members of Vichai's staff, pilot Eric Swaffer and passenger Izabela Roza Lechowicz.

## QNB STARS LEAGUE

# Boudiaf, El Arabi strike as Duhail beat Arabi

The victory helped Duhail re-establish their seven-point lead at the top the table

By Sports Reporter  
Doha

**A**l Duhail swept to a comfortable 2-0 win against Al Arabi in the QNB Stars League at the Al Duhail Stadium yesterday. Goals for the hosts came in the second half through Karim Boudiaf (55th minute) and Yousef El Arabi (63rd).

The victory helped Duhail re-establish their seven-point lead at the top the table. They now have 28 points from 10 games while second-placed Al Rayyan are on 21 from 11 matches. Al Sadd who have played only 9, are on 20.

What had started as a very open game required Al Duhail goalkeeper Khalifa Abubacker to make multiple blocks as he thwarted Al Arabi attacks on several occasions. The lack of end product was bad news for Al Arabi as it allowed the league leaders to grow into the game. The earliest warning came when El Arabi had a header disallowed for offside.

The home side was unlucky not to take the lead when Nam Tae-hee struck a spectacular volley from wide on the left which looped over the keeper before striking the bar. The same player was again involved as his goalbound shot was superbly blocked on the line by Ali Bazmandegan. The Red Knights came out for the second half with even greater endeavour and were able to get the breakthrough goal early on.

Bringing possession down the left, Boudiaf received the ball on the edge of the area, looked up and then struck a shot from 20 yards that was deflected on its way into the corner of the net.

While Al Arabi were still reeling in shock, a wonderful passing move culminated in Edmilson finding El Arabi on the right of the box, who advanced inside before drilling a low, hard shot into the far corner. The 0-2 loss was not what Arabi needed as they look to propel themselves up the table. However, it was the perfect outcome for Duhail as they cemented their position at the top.

**SAILIYA'S TIBERKANINE SCORES HAT-TRICK AGAINST KHARAITIYAT**  
Al Saliya secured a highly comprehensive 5-0 away victory over bottom side Al Kharaitiyat at the Al Khor Sta-

POINTS TABLE					
Team	M	W	L	D	P
Al Duhail	10	9	0	1	28
Al Rayyan	11	6	2	3	21
Al Sadd	9	6	1	2	20
Al Saliya	11	6	4	1	19
Al Ahli	11	6	5	0	18
Al Gharafa	11	4	4	3	15
Umm Salal	11	4	4	3	15
Al Shahania	11	3	5	3	12
Al Arabi	11	4	7	0	12
Qatar SC	11	3	6	2	11
Al Khor	10	2	6	2	8
Kharaitiyat	11	1	10	0	3



Al Saliya's Rachid Tiberkanine scored a hat-trick against Al Kharaitiyat.

dium yesterday. Rachid Tiberkanine scored a hat-trick, his goals coming in the 32nd, 45+1 and 56th minutes. Abdulqadir Ilyas added to his tally with goals in the 52nd and 88th minutes.



Al Duhail's Murad Naji Hussein (left) and Al Arabi's Abdulrahman Waleed Mansour vie for the ball at the QNB Stars League.

Tiberkanine returned to provide nightmares to his former club as he raced to 10 goals for the season. A masterclass in positional play saw him grab the first goal of the night midway through the second half as he converted a low cross from close range.

On the stroke of half-time, he was on hand to finish with a header as he out-jumped his marker and secured his side a comfortable 2-0 lead going into the breather. Any hope of a comeback for Al Kharaitiyat was thwarted when Ilyas got in on the action to scramble the ball

across the line before Tiberkanine added his third after some neat play.

The final goal of the night followed a nice exchange between Adam and Rachid before the latter crossed from the right for Adam to plant a header into the corner.

## QSL holds meeting for league's second leg

**Doha:** The Qatar Stars League (QSL) yesterday held the technical meeting for the 2018-19 season QNB Stars League's second leg starting on Thursday, 8th November, with Week 12 action.

QSL's Competitions Department Director Ahmed al-Adsani chaired the meeting, attended by Head of Operations Ahmed al-Sayed, Referees Committee representative Abdulla al-Balooshi as well as representatives of 12 competing teams – Al Duhail, Al Rayyan, Al Sadd, Al Saliya, Umm Salal, Al Gharafa, Al Arabi, Al Khor, Al Ahli, Qatar SC, Al Kharaitiyat and Al Shahania.

Al-Adsani wished the club representatives success ahead of the start of decisive second leg. He expressed his hope to continue constructive co-operation to achieve common goals in the best interests of professional football and QNB Stars League.

The team colours and jerseys were chosen for players and goalkeepers during the meeting that stressed clubs must bring their own team and reserve players for matches and the importance of being at the stadium on match days well in time.

The teams' home jersey colours will be: Al Rayyan (red and black), Qatar SC (full yellow), Al Duhail (full red), Al Sadd (full yellow), Umm Salal (full black), Al Ahli (full green), Al Gharafa (full yellow), Al Arabi (full red), Al Khor (full blue), Al Kharaitiyat (full blue), Al Saliya (blue and black) and Al Shahania (full blue). It may be recalled that the QSL had released the schedule for Weeks 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 of the 2018-19 season QNB Stars League. The remaining fixtures will be announced in co-ordination with all partners and stakeholders. The kick-off times will be in accordance with the winter.



## SPOTLIGHT

## Once kicked off the team, Russian Dalaloyan now king of Gymnastics

By FIG  
Doha

**I**t has been such a long time since a Russian man won the world All-around title, that Artur Dalaloyan was convinced he was the only one who had done it.

After his narrow victory last week at the World Artistic Gymnastics Championship in Doha, which concluded on Saturday, a grinning Dalaloyan told reporters he was pretty sure he was the first Russian man to win the coveted title, unaware that 19 years prior, one of his former coaches, Nikolai Kryukov, conquered the Gymnastics world in Tianjin (CHN). The 22-year-old Muscovite will have to settle for being the first Russian man in the 21st century to wear the crown. "I'm overwhelmed by emotions," he said, the gold medal still around his neck.

No man had a better meet than Dalaloyan in Doha, who became the first man to earn five medals at a Worlds since Vitaly Scherbo in 1991. Apart from his all-around title, Dalaloyan also won gold in Floor Exercise, silver in Vault and bronze in Parallel Bars.

Kryukov was one of the coaches who guided Dalaloyan through his tumultuous career, beset by setbacks and painful lessons learned. The head coach of the Russian men's junior team, Kryukov recalls watching Dalaloyan from the time he was first learning pull-ups on the Horizontal Bar at Moscow Dinamo, where he began training with his coach Alexander Kalinin at age 7.

"I remember how he was in my youth team, and how I took him to the Japanese Junior International," Kryukov told reporters. "I remember saying to him: 'Look what they are doing, the Chinese,



Artur Dalaloyan won four medals at the World Artistic Gymnastics Championships in Doha. The Russian won gold in men's all-around and Floor Exercise, silver in Vault and bronze in Parallel Bars. (AFP)

Japanese gymnasts. Look, this is possible!" But he still could not believe in himself."

Dalaloyan has been through a rollercoaster ride to get to the top in Doha. Lack of confidence resulted in inconsistent performances, and he went through a rebellious period in his teens that finally resulted in the 15-year-old being expelled from the national team for disciplinary reasons. He says it took him a month or so of being stubborn to come back to the gym with a new attitude.

"I really understood a very simple thing: I need Gymnastics," said Dalaloyan, who Wednesday thanked Kalinin for his "infinite patience" over the years.

After returning to the team, he took a laidback approach that cost him his dream of competing at the Rio 2016 Olympics.

"I did not do things the way professional athletes should do," Dalaloyan recalled earlier this year. "When you are 18 or 19 years old, it is difficult to lock

yourself in the gym and only train. I wanted to have fun, dance with girls, go for walks, and much more. I thought, 'Why limit myself? After all, I'm already in the national team!' Then I began to notice that the other guys were all progressing, and I was wasting time. When I realised that I really could not get to Rio, I discarded all unnecessary and went to work. It was like something clicked in my head. I really understood a very simple thing: I need Gymnastics."

After missing out on the squad for the 2016 Rio Olympics, Dalaloyan refocused his efforts. He finished second All-around to Oleg Verniaiev (UKR) at the 2017 Europeans in Cluj-Napoca (ROU), where he won the gold on Vault. A broken foot limited his performance at the 2017 World Championships in Montreal (CAN), where the Russian men once again left empty-handed in the All-around.

"At the last world champion-

ship in Montreal, I literally left in tears: two Chinese won individual All-around medals, the Japanese won the bronze, and our David Belyavskiy made a mistake in the last rotation that cost him the title."

A healthy Dalaloyan won three more gold medals (team, Vault and Parallel Bars) at August's European championships in Glasgow, setting up his performance in Doha. Fourth in qualification after falling victim to Pommel Horse, his duel with defending champion Xiao Ruoteng ended up with a favourable result for the Russian, earning him the nickname "King Artur."

He has also been called the "New Nemov" thanks to his excellent form and bodyline that has drawn comparison to 2000 Olympic All-around champion Alexei Nemov. But in Doha, Dalaloyan managed to do what even Nemov could not at seven world championships over a decade: win the All-around.

## FOOTBALL

## Qatar's Umaru wins top scorer award at AFC U-19 Championship

AFC  
Bogor, Indonesia

**A**bdulrasheed Umaru's seven goals saw the Qatar ace finish as top scorer at the AFC U-19 Championship Indonesia 2018 which concluded yesterday.

The 19-year-old striker found the net in four of his country's five games at the tournament, including a hat-trick against Indonesia during Qatar's remarkable 6-5 group stage victory.

"I really want to thank my teammates," he told the -AFC.com after helping guide the West Asians to the semi-finals before they were beaten by eventual runners-up Korea Republic.

"Every goal I scored was because of their hard work, so I must give them a lot of credit. I still don't really believe we lost in the semi-finals, but I am really glad we got that far. I truly hope that everyone in Qatar is happy with us and our effort in this tournament. Ultimately, there were better teams than us, however we did everything we could. I am sure I will learn from this experience."

Umaru's teammate, Hashim Ali, finished tied for second place with losing finalist Jeon Se-jin after both players bagged five goals apiece.

## SAUDI ARABIA EMERGE CHAMPIONS

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia claimed the AFC U-19 Championship title yesterday after a hard-fought 2-1 win over South Korea. A scintillating first half display, with the talismanic Turki al-Ammar to the fore, proved the difference at Bogor's Pakansari Stadium, as the Saudis sealed their third title success at this level, and their first since 1992.

Both sides, along with beaten semi-finalists Qatar and Japan, qualified for next year's FIFA U-20 World Cup in Poland. On a night of high drama, it took Saudi Arabia less than two minutes to break the deadlock, al-Ammar firing home after Korea Republic goalkeeper Lee Gwang-yeon had done well to save Abdulmohsen al-Qahtani's initial shot.

Saudi Arabia extended their lead on 22 minutes, this time Khalid al-Ghannam sending a delightful shot over Lee Gwang-yeon from distance much to the delight of their supporters.

Korea reduced the deficit in the 64th minute, Cho calmly despatching a penalty after Jeon Se-jin had been upended in the area by Muhammad al-Shanqiti. Korea worked tirelessly to find an equaliser, but it was not to be as Saudi Arabia duly held on to claim the continental crown and spark wild celebrations.



Abdulrasheed Umaru scored seven goals for Qatar, including a hat-trick against Indonesia.