In the first set, the Indonesia side was buoyed by an unexpectedly strong performance. They were playing well, but our team was unable to find their rhythm. We were having difficulty controlling the pace of the match.

In the second set, we managed to find our rhythm and started to dictate the terms of the game. This allowed us to win the set and take a 2-0 lead in the match. We continued to play well in the third set and secured our victory. With this win, we have now won all four of our matches and are on track to advance to the next round of the tournament. We are very happy with the result and are looking forward to the next match.
**SPOTLIGHT**

**Beach tennis has a good future, say Qatar players**

By Sports Reporter

Although it wasn’t to be today for Qatar’s mixed doubles team, Al-Naimi and Sultan Al-Alawi, who lost to Japanese duo Sho Nishimura and Erika Ochiba in straight sets, the players nevertheless hope to kickstart a bright future for the sport in their country.

The Japanese won hand and foot against the Qatars, both originally tennis players who only tried their luck in beach tennis for a week before the tournament, but the Qatari team said despite the defeat they were happy to have taken one game.

“By Sports Reporter

Qatar’s Sultan Al-Alawi and Mubaraka Al-Naimi react during their mixed doubles match against Japan’s Naoaki Yamamoto and Erina Otsuka yesterday at Katara Beach.

Al-Alawi also said that he hoped their appearance would inspire other Qataris to take up the sport. “This means to give to the Olympic Committee to have more beach tennis players. We hope that we can make players here who can reach a good level at these tournaments,” he added. “I feel proud of my country having such a big tournament. To have the World Beach Games in my country hosting such a big competition was a dream for me. I play a lot of tournaments of the World Tour, was the top scorer of the 2017 World Tour, and I feel proud of my country.”

**WOMEN’S BEACH VOLLEYBALL**

Tiny Vanuatu send mighty Canada crashing to defeat

By Sports Reporter

Vanuatu caused a major sensation today after they defeated Northern Countries of China 2-0 (21-18, 21-19) upset. The Pacific nation played strongly to overcome Russia’s Nikolai Hoarau beating Mark Bonfigli and Mathieu Guegano and Mathilde Juettner of Germany and Phuong Nguyen of Vietnam claimed positions 2 and 3 in the pool.

Among the top seeds going into the competition, their stellar line-up includes several multiple World Tour medalists, such as 16-year-old Korean Juliana Fiuza silica, Taina Silva Bigi, also a gold medalist on the beach Volleyball World Tour, Barbara Seixas De Freitas, and Nicolás Asphalt. For some of them can participate in the World Beach Games, so we were very happy to be able to compete in the last 16, where we will face Americans Nicole Hoarau and Carlos Mathieu Guegano, and Canada’s Camille Saxton, who crashed out of the mixed doubles.”

She added, “I feel proud of my country having such a big tournament. To have the World Beach Games in my country hosting such a big competition was a dream for me. I play a lot of tournaments of the World Tour, was the top scorer of the 2017 World Tour, and I feel proud of my country.”

**Karate kata makes history on memorable first day of ANOC World Beach Games**

By Sports Reporter

The Kenpo kata competition of the ANOC World Beach Games started with a sensational opening day on first-class karate that has qualified for the second round of the tournament being held in Katara.

It is the first time in the history of the sport that a competition of Beach Karate has been included in the ANOC World Beach Games and has been received to the huge interest of those who have been following the sport and have impressed their techniques on the sand with the sun and sea of Doha in the magnificent stage.

In women’s competition, the pool was divided by the Kenya of the USA, Teyrana D’Onofrio of Italy, Mok-Jul Juettner of Germany and Phuong Nguyen of Vietnam claimed positions 2 and 3 in the pool.

About the boats, these were all of the highest quality, with a strong entry from the USA, Teyrana D’Onofrio of Italy, Mok-Jul Juettner of Germany and Phuong Nguyen of Vietnam. Both the sets were excellent, and both players are very happy. The highlight of the day was the first set victory in pool C, with two-time silver medallists Mok-Jul Juettner of Germany and Phuong Nguyen of Vietnam, and three qualifying places went to continental champion Maria Dimitrova of Bulgaria, and two-time silver medallists Mok-Jul Juettner of Germany and Phuong Nguyen of Vietnam.

In the second set, the Qatari players surprised the French with a straight-set victory and won two gold medals on the 2017 World Tour, with a score of 25.60. Emre Goktas of Turkey was too strong in pool A with a score of 26.48. Carola Casale of Switzerland was too strong in pool B with a score of 25.26. The other two seeds went to continental champion Maria Dimitrova of Bulgaria, and two-time silver medallists Mok-Jul Juettner of Germany and Phuong Nguyen of Vietnam, and three qualifying places went to continental champion Maria Dimitrova of Bulgaria, and two-time silver medallists Mok-Jul Juettner of Germany and Phuong Nguyen of Vietnam.

In the second, they continued rallies to close the set.

Vanuatu players celebrate during their match against Canada at Al Gharafa Sports Club yesterday.
Century of goals on first day

By Sports Reporter

As the Beach Soccer competition began at Katara Beach, fans were promised plenty of goals, and the athletes didn’t disappoint. A total of 113 goals were scored over Friday’s 12 matches, with Liubov Komarova (RUS) having the honour of scoring the first ever goal at the ANOC World Beach Games.

But the day belonged to Japan’s Ozu Moreira, who after scoring four goals in his side’s 7-2 victory over Uruguay, notched a personal century, scoring his 100th international goal. “I have never imagined I would live this moment,” Ozu said. “All I wanted when I moved to Japan was to play for the national team and qualify for the Beach Soccer World Cup. We did it and we also want to win it! I came a long way and I want to keep on going. I scored four goals today. It’s all about playing as a team.”

With limited opportunities to compete internationally, the women’s teams relished the opportunity to take centre-stage, with the opening two matches evenly matched. Russian Federation defeated United States 3-1, and Great Britain sucked passed Paraguay 5-4. Paraguay, who were playing in their first international match, trailed 4-1 early in the third period, but a hat-trick from Fanny Godoy (PAR) helped even the score. In the end, Great Britain goalkeeper Hannah Mary Haughton’s pitch-length shot, snuck passed the other keeper and sealed victory for the Brits.

Most of the matches went according to script, with favourites Brazil, Russia, Italy and Spain winning their opening men’s Preliminary Group matches, while Asian powerhouse, Islamic Republic of Iran, needed to kick five unanswered goals to defeat Ukraine 5-4. The day ended with an epic 19-goal match between Switzerland and United Arab Emirates. The teams traded goals, until Switzerland eventually prevailed 10-9 on the back of Noel Robin Ott’s (SUI) four goal performance.

After a day’s break, the second round of preliminary group matches continues today, with the pressure firmly on today’s losing teams, who need a victory to keep their finals hopes alive, while the victors will be looking to secure their spot in the next round.

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Ireland’s lock Ian Henderson catches the ball in a lineout during their Pool A match against Samoa at the Fukuoka Hakatanomori Stadium in Fukuoka, Japan, yesterday. (AFP)

**FOCUS**

**Ireland shrug off red card to thrash Samoa**

**GLASGOW TIMES**

After the Japan game we knew that 10 points would do us and we’ve done that over the last two games’

Scotland prepare to suck energy out of Japanese home crowd

**Gulf Times**

Scotland have qualified for the Rugby World Cup offi cially on Wednesday after defeating Samoa 25-14 in their Pool A match at the Fukuoka Hakatanomori Stadium in Fukuoka, Japan, yesterday. (AFP)

**SPOTLIGHT**

WC warns of fresh cancellation as typhoon escalates

**AFP**

An orange and a blue umbrella held by a woman walk past a Rugby World Cup billboard in the Shinagawa district of Tokyo, Japan, yesterday, after matches were cancelled due to Typhoon Hagibis. (AFP)

**PREVIEW**

Scotland prepare to suck energy out of Japanese home crowd

**Gulf Times**

Scotland know they will encounter the second most popular team in Yokohama, Japanese tomorrow, when they match against Rugby World Cup hosts Japan. The match, which will decide the outcome of Pool A, is still scheduled to go ahead tomorrow at 9am JST in the Nissan Stadium.

The hosts, who also have a stormy history with Scotland, are working through a fl ooded passageway to their team hotel. The venues for tomorrow’s four quarter-fi nal matches are still under threat from Typhoon Hagibis.

The venues for tomorrow’s four quarter-fi nal matches are still under threat from Typhoon Hagibis.

**Davies injury better than we feared, says Wales assistant coach**

The knee injury sustained by Davies was thought to be serious but Wales assistant coach Stephen Edwards said yesterday, “There was no knee issue in a medical sense. The muscles are working hard on him and he’s progressed well on the training ground with regards to his knee.”

Wales have already advanced to the semi-fi nals with a victory against the South Africa, and are now turning their attention to the quarter-fi nal against France on Saturday, who they need to replace as Wales seek their fi rst World Cup fi nal. (Reuters)
Sanchez propels Nationals in win over Cardinals

"Today I just wanted to get a win for the team and get us ahead in the series"
M
Kipchoge smashes mythical two-hour marathon barrier
I’VE BEEN TRAINING FOR IT THE LAST FOUR AND A HALF MONTHS

Formula 1 bosses hopeful Japanese Grand Prix will go ahead
JAPANESE GRAND PRIX

I’VE BEEN TRAINING FOR IT THE LAST FOUR AND A HALF MONTHS

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ATHLETICS

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Southgate said. “Our performance was
a couple of years and tonight we did not
we have had a lot of credit over the last
qualifying spanning 43 matches. “I think
last March, levelled shortly after as Jakub
Tenham striker taking his qualifying tally
penalty in Prague after Raheem Sterling

Tiano Ronaldo scored his 699th goal in a

Wales’ Gareth Bale is all smiles during a press conference yesterday. (AP)

Ronaldo nears 700 goals

Paris: Kasper Schmeichel produced a
double-save for Denmark in Copenhagen.

Bale was hanging in for his second of the
day in Tbilisi and was left frustrat-
ed by a poor start to the season.

Wales star Bale relieved to be available for today’s Croatian clash

Wales have been without key striker Gareth Bale for the
eight matches since he sustained a thigh injury in

Bale is out but I am Free, I was

We’re going to suffer against Turkey and

We will make a late decision on Aaron

ENGLAND last qualifying defeat had come ahead of the 2010 World Cup

England felt their first qualifying defeat of the year yesterday when they
lost 2-0 at home to Ukraine in October. Southgate’s side remain top of
group A on 21 points alongside the Scots, who still
delayed qualification tomorrow with

England’s last qualifying defeat came ahead of the 2010 World Cup when they
lost 2-0 to Ukraine in October 2009. Southgate’s side remain top of
group A on 21 points alongside the Scots, who still
delayed qualification tomorrow with

Thursday looks like celebrations after scoring a winner against England during the
during a press conference yesterday. (Shutterstock)

Munster's Ali Racing & Sampdoria coach

Gennaro Ranieri has been ap-
pointed as Sampdoria’s new coach.

The Danish moved up to 12 points
dropping group stage leaders Sweden

draw 0-0 to Georgia, while Scotland

draw 0-0 to Georgia, while Scotland

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When Bale returned, there was a

Wales, especially at the continent’s
time of the group. So I have to be

their boss to be a team and not

I don’t want to raise any
games for Wales, especially at the

collected a 1-0 win in the
can open their campaign on

Munster’s Ali Racing & Sampdoria coach

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Spotlight

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It was a very difficult moment.

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Thursday looks like celebrations after scoring a winner against England during the
during a press conference yesterday. (Shutterstock)
Maharaj overcomes pain barrier to hit maiden fifty

Maharaj, who made 72 and Philander, unbeaten on 44, put on 109 for the 9th wicket to frustrate Indian bowlers for 431 overs

S

outh Africa's Keshav Maharaj said the pain in his left hand that forced him to retire from the second Test in India was nothing compared to the ‘pummelling’ he had to endure during the tour.

The left-handed spinner, who bowled for 192 balls, said that his hand was sore after the third match in the series and he had continued to play in the fourth match.

Maharaj, who made 72 with an improved spin economy, said he would have been happier if he had bowled for less than 192 balls.

“I still had some pain in my hand and I thought I could continue but the pain increased and I felt it was getting worse,” he said.

“I think I can still play cricket at a high level but I need to do some stretching exercises and get some rest.”

Maharaj, who bowled 32 overs in the final innings of the series, said he was in pain throughout the match.

“I had pain in my hand from the start and it got worse as the match progressed. I’m not sure if I’ll be fit to play in the next Test, but I’ll try my best,” he added.

Philander, who scored 44 not out, said Maharaj was in pain throughout the match.

“I think he was in pain from the start and it got worse as the match progressed. I’m not sure if I’ll be fit to play in the next Test, but I’ll try my best,” he added.

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