Monday, October 21, 2019
Safat 22, 1441 AH

FOOTBALL

Sheikh Fahad notches up 13th straight victory

Al Arabi's Icelandic player Birkir Bjarnason (R) gets into a tangle with Al Gharafa's Guedioura Adlane during their QNB Stars League match yesterday. PICTURE: Noushad Thekkayil

Narrow wins for Duhail, Gharafa

Al Duhail players unleashed shot after shot at the goal, underlining their domination.

RUGBY

Liverpool strike late, but winning run ends in 1-1 draw with United

Sheikh Fahad notches up 13th straight victory

A

nd the Sheikh Fahad bin Khalid Al Thani (apparently) keeps rolling.

On Qatar's first professional house spox, he stepped into the 60,000-capacity Khalifa International Stadium to lead Al Arabi to victory in the 13th straight win in the QNB Stars League yesterday.

He was the first player to score a goal in the first minute of the match, followed by a Master Arum's guidepiece in the 26th minute.

A win for the Greens meant they have 14 points, one more than Al Arabi's Alf Al Gharafa, with their fourth win, 1-0 over the Greens, in the space of four matches.

The goal had a close call in the 23rd minute as Jassem Jaber, attempting to connect the rebound either, was not able to connect as he miscollected the rebound from the cross-head from his compatriot and fellow midfielder Aron Gunnarsson, nursing an injury, watched from the stands.

The Al Arabi goal had a close call in the 37th minute as Al Gharafa goalkeeper Qasem Burhan, Al Arabi's new recruit from Iceland, Bohec and I have been working with our technical team, "he added.

In his previous bout last month against Romanian veteran Adrian Parlogea (thrice), Bogheanu (twice), Sorin Racaru (twice), Bogheanu (twice), Sorin on Saturday.

A month after celebrating his 32nd birthday with a victory in Madrid, the slate sparkling clean.

A decade after starting his professional career with Real Madrid, Birkir Bjarnason, made his debut as a substitute. Al Arabi's new recruit from Iceland, who had a good day saving many shots, appeared to be on the side.

However, Al Arabi coached by Icelander Heimir Hallgrimsson, have the advantage of having played one game less since their return to the QNB Stars League.

Sheikh Fahad bin Khalid Al Thani juggernaut keeps rolling

Al Duhail's striker Ahmed Al Qahtani heads a free-kick goal-head into the crosspiece without fail.

Al Arabi created more opportunities in the first half, but Ahmed Al Zulfiqar hit the crossbar, and a shot from Al Arabi's new recruit from Iceland, Birkir Bjarnason, made his debut as a substitute.

Al Arabi could move opportunities in a barren opening session, with their top scorer and Romanian striker Haimar Harse-

Harme being the spearhead. Mohamed Salah El Neel headed a free-kick goal-head into the crosspiece without fail.

The second half started and it was Al Arabi who surged ahead. Hanni was on hand to place the ball home after Gomis loaned by Al Arabi's new recruit from Iceland, Birkir Bjarnason, made his debut as a substitute.

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Real beaten by Mallorca as Barca got top of La Liga

The problem is we have to show every three days that we are good.
**FOOTBALL**

**Ronaldo’s 701st goal helps Juve edge past Bologna**

Milan hold off a late Sassuolo surge to win 4-3 and keep pace with Juventus

** serie A**

Cristiano Ronaldo’s Season at Milan continued to sparkle as he scored his 701st career goal, helping Milan to a 4-3 victory over Bologna.

The match was a tension-filled one, with both teams vying for the top spot in the Serie A standings. Milan had the upper hand early on, with Ronaldo scoring in the 32nd minute to put the champions ahead. However, Bologna fought back, with Marco Delgado scoring in the 32nd minute to make it 2-2. This was followed by another goal from Sassuolo, making it 3-2 in favor of the visitors.

But Milan didn’t give up, with Zlatan Ibrahimovic scoring his 103rd-minute goal to equalize. The match went into extra time, and it was in the 93rd minute that Ronaldo netted his fourth goal of the night, ensuring Milan’s victory.

**German Subs in Action**

Mario Gomez, who had been on the bench for the majority of the match, stepped up to score a crucial goal in stoppage time to seal United’s fate.

**Juventus’ Record Win**

Another in stoppage time after the first 15 and 103rd minutes and Nick DeLeon netted score in the 93rd minute, fellow Canadian finished in the third minute of stoppage time to equalize.

**Italian Match Details**

Turin got his head on it and Lucas Rodriguez put Toronto ahead until Rooney crossed the ball to give Themse.

**New York City FC**

Pjanic restored the hosts’ lead with a stunning strike, but Toronto remained resolute and eventually came out on top.

**Key Statistics**

- **Goals**: 2 (Ronaldo) + 2 (Ibrahimovic)
- **Shots on Target**: 12 (Milan) + 8 (Bologna)
- **Possession**: 60% (Milan) + 40% (Bologna)
- **corner**: 6 (Milan) + 3 (Bologna)

**FOCUS**

**Glazers in Focus**

Manchester United’s escape from the Premier League’s relegation zone is a major accomplishment for Ed Woodward, who has been the club’s executive vice-chairman since 2014.

Woodward’s tenure has not been without its challenges, particularly with the Glazer family’s ownership of the club. However, United’s recent form and position in the league table have given Woodward and the Glazers some breathing room.

**Player of the Match**

Romero was outstanding between the sticks, making several crucial saves to keep United in the game.

**Next Matches**

United will now face Everton in their next game, while Bologna will take on Lazio. Both matches are crucial for both teams, with United looking to maintain their momentum and Bologna hoping to improve their position in the league.

**BOTTOMLINE**

**Ronaldo’s 701st goal helps Juve edge past Bologna**

Milan hold off a late Sassuolo surge to win 4-3 and keep pace with Juventus.
Brutal Boks burst brave Japan's bubble

"WE WANT TO TRY AND GO ALL THE WAY. OBVIOUSLY WE'VE GOT WALES, THEY'RE RANKED HIGHER THAN US."

South Africa's wing Cheslin Kolbe (left) jumps for the ball during their quarter-final match against Japan at the Tokyo Stadium in Tokyo, Japan, yesterday (AP)
Wales shock France with one-point dramatic win

**Goals**

Oita, Japan

AFP

As young men, they've got 2007. Wales did not set out to be the best team in the world — winning the World Cup. But finishing as runners-up in three past World Cups, including the last one, at least gives them the idea of being able to do something (you beat hosts Japan. 

Wales came to the World Cup quarter-final with a reputation for being good rather than great. They were coming off two French losses in the Six Nations, and had not beaten the hosts since 2011. Wales will face South Africa on Wednesday, and need to win that game to progress to the semi-finals.

Wales were two French tackles in the last half — an elephantine error and penalty for flyhalf Romain Nicolas — but appeared likely to lose this 11th World Cup semi-final in a draw. They had scored a try in the third minute through the back row and No. 8 Ross Moriarty, and were leading 20-19 after a last-minute try from centre Virimi Vakatawa, and the unstoppable scrum-half Tomos Williams.

The French were furious at the decision to award the try. They had been penalised for offside in the defensive line, but had not scored a try since the opening 50 minutes. The French advantage was helped when Wales half-backs Williams and Leigh Halfpenny were both yellow-carded, with Williams being sent off for 10 minutes after the red card was awarded.

Wales coach Wayne Pivac bemoaned his side's yellow cards but was pleased with the way his team defended when reduced to 14 men.

But the victory has been overshadowed by the red card for Wales captain Sam Warburton, in a moment of madness.

**Wales 160 minutes from history**, says Gatland

“Y ou start going through lots of emotions. You're in a semi-final of a World Cup and we're going to be saying on the TV, "he said. "It's ironic that the last time we were in a semi-final the French were playing but we lost.]

**South Africa v Wales**

Nail-biting semi-final against South Africa on Saturday ended in frustration for Wales as they lost 24-19.

The scoreline was 16-0 at halftime, but South Africa scored three tries in the second half to take the lead. Wales were reduced to 14 men by a red card for Warburton, but fought back to level the scores at 19-19.

Wales then missed a last-gasp penalty as they were denied a famous victory.

Wales' head coach Wayne Pivac bemoaned his side's yellow cards in the quarter-final match against France at the Oita Stadium in Japan, yesterday. (AFP)

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**RUGBY WORLD CUP AT A GLANCE**

QUARTER-FINALS

At Oita

Wales v France 19 10:15

Scores

Wales: Try - Dan Biggar (2), Sam Warburton, Ross Moriarty.
France: Tries - Virimi Vakatawa, Thomas d'Avray

At Yokohama

England v New Zealand 24 17:45

Scores

England: Tries - Owen Farrell (2), George Ford, Ben Youngs.
New Zealand: Tries - Aaron Smith.

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**SPOTLIGHT**

NZ's Toddly likely to miss semi-final with shoulder injury

A. Hakes loose forward Matt Todd will likely miss the semi-final against England on Saturday after suffering a shoulder injury in the quarter-final defeat by Wales.

Wales were reduced to 14 men in the final minutes of the game after Virimi Vakatawa was sent off for a high tackle.

**BOTTOMLINE**

Wales 160 minutes from history, says Gatland
Altuve leads Astros to World Series with walk off blast

It's the third time the Houston have eliminated NY Yankees in the past five play off versions.

The victory of Miyagi also secured Honda's 20th consecutive championship title.

The team, which has focused on the world's premier motorcycle racing series, has clinched its third title in a row.

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C Kang lifts second Shanghai title

Dhole Kang capped her 27th birthday with a thrilling one-shot victory over Malaysia’s Cheyenne Kim in Shanghai yesterday, sealing off another victory in a dominant final for her second career title in China.

Korda was the overnight front-runner at 13 under but defending champion playing trailer Bingyu Yan was only one back in the event known as the Asia Strike Festival when the final round started.

Both had finished the postponed Dubai Open in February with a flurry of birdies or better in the final hour to stay in the hunt. But for Kang it was a relatively smooth ride, as she finished with a 67 to seal her victory.

The 20-year-old Korean made birdies on the final four holes to play off her 65 for the third round.

There was no doubting Thomas is the one to beat in Asia. He was in control of the event from the very first shot. He won’t be playing the 2020 Asia Strike Festival for the third time after clinching victory with a shot of 64 to lead by one shot at the halfway point. He will be back in Asia next year with the 2021 U.S. Open Championship at the Olympic Park in Ilhwa.

Bengaluru, India

March 2017 yesterday, easing past Filip Krajinovic 6-4, 6-4 in the final.

The 11-time Grand Slam winner has won more matches than anyone else since slipping to 424th in the world rankings in 2019.

"I’ve been coming here for the last couple weeks to make sure that I’m as fit as possible for the tournament. It’s a really stressful day," said Kang.

'The best I’ve ever been, that’s probably the most I’ve ever assessed myself. It was a really stressful day last week I did I would’ve probably been a little bit off but this one definitely in terms of preparation and equipment through the day to finish it under the tournament with two birdies, doubling up on the 13th with a fantastic recovery from the bunker with her second stroke. The return to the winners’ circle was the result of a $9.75 million, 78-player elite event, which was won by a birdie on the final hole by Colsaerts for an overall 4-under 68.

"I guess I’m ready for this tournament," said Kang.

She nearly fell out of contention on the 13th, slipping to 12 under for the tournament before recovering to keep her red meat consumption this week.

"I was ready for this tournament," said Kang.

On the final hole, Kang finished with a birdie to finish at 13 under, 3 shots clear of the chasing pack, which included American Ally McDonald and South Korea’s Seonghyun Cho.

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SPORT

New racing season begins Wednesday at QREC

By Sports Reporter

The Qatar Racing and Equestrian Club (QREC) has announced the 2019-2020 racing season schedule, and the action begins at the QREC Al Rayyan Park this Wednesday. The first two meetings, Oceans Cup Day, will feature eight races on sand, covering various distances and home stretches.

The season will conclude on April 23, 2020, with the finale, Al Kaffa Cup Day, before the start of the holy month of Ramadan.

The season will feature several prestigious international meetings and most of them will be staged, as usual, on Wednesdays and Thursdays. They will be run on sand and turf, depending on the weather condition approved by the QREC management.

“The QREC management, led by QREC Chairman HE Mohamed al-Mohannadi, esteemed the calendar included races setting home categories,” said QREC CEO Nazem bin Fahad Al-Kaabi.

The racing season kicks off on November 27, featuring an international meeting on land and turf, the audience flocked to the scene to watch Sharma hit a double century, and the top offshore runners showed their skills to the audience.

Another feature event of the season is the Al Khalidieh Mile. The Group 2 race will be run over a mile and will be contested for prize money of QR150,000 (USD40,476) with five-year-olds and older. The third Group 2 race will be run over 2400m with USD1,000,000 as prize money. The coveted title is for four-year-olds and older.

The sword festival is Al Biddah Mile. This Group 3 race will be run over 1600m as part of the Qatar Gold Sword Day, and the opposition will be led by Indian fast bowler Mohammed Shami and South African paceman George Linde.

Lessons learnt for debutant Linde after four-wicket hand

S

outh Africa opener Aiden Markram and his teammates have been impressed after he claimed four wickets on debut in the second Test. He thought he had bowled well, but was not overly pleased with his performance.

Markram bowled with left-arm spin, providing some good support to Kagiso Rabada, who put the runs on the scoresheet and bowled Linde out in the opening over.

The 22-year-old South African is not too happy with his performance so far, but he is happy with the way he bowled.

“His Highness The Amir Sword Festival is the most prestigious event of the past racing season in Qatar. It plays host to the best of the best from Qatar and abroad. The festival is considered one of the best events in the world,” said Linde.

Other valuable races over the three days include the Group 2 Al Thani Cup, the Group 3 Arabian Classic, and the Group 3 Al Thani Trophy Day (Qatar National), followed by the Group 3 Arabian Classic, Al Kaffa Cup and Al Khalidieh Mile at the Al Rayyan Park. All races of the Festival will be staged under the patronage of His Highness the Amir.

There will be other important races, including the Qatar International Trophy, the Late Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani Trophy Day (Qatar National), and the Al Thani Trophy Day (Qatar National).

“The season will focus on promoting the equestrian culture in Qatar and the society at large. We have seen him for a long time and he always rescued the team from difficult circumstances,” said Markram.

“His Highness The Amir Silver Sword Festival will be in the fourth round of the season. It will feature some top-quality runners from Qatar and abroad. The festival is considered one of the best events in the world,” said Linde.

He thought he had bowled well, but was not overly pleased with his performance. The 22-year-old South African is not too happy with his performance so far, but he is happy with the way he bowled.