Barshim leaps into the final, says ‘I am always the favourite’

‘Today was very important for me because I was pushing myself whole season’

Qatar’s Mutaz Essa Barshim leaps over the bar during the high jump qualification yesterday.

By Sahan Bidappa

Qatar’s Mutaz Essa Barshim was never in doubt of making it to the final of the high jump on Friday.

“I am very proud, it’s a dream come true,” Barshim said after finishing second in the qualification with 2.31m. “It’s quite normal for me to jump well at home. Despite the fact that people are sometimes very critical, I am happy to compete here and hopefully to come back in the final and do the hard work,” Barshim said.

Barshim, who won silver at the London Olympics, said he was always the favourite.

“I always want to win; it does not matter who competes,” Barshim said.

Barshim and competing at the Doha Worlds had provided fans with elite athletics as he began his long road to recovery in January and he feels very critical, I am happy to be able to compete here and hopefully to come back in the final and do the hard work,” Barshim said.

Barshim said he would love to win a gold medal in front of the home crowd.

El Seify

Qatar’s first world championships qualified for the Doha World, but his qualification was not the same. The qualifying mark was set at 2.31m, which was not enough for him to be able to compete for the medal. In the final, he finished in 12th place overall. The finals scheduled for today at 6:40pm.

In the men’s 400m, Qatar’s Abdulsalam Hafiz finished fourth in a time of 47.70sec, which was far slower than his best time, 46.29sec, which he set at the Worlds Championships.

Barshim

Barshim said his preparations for the World Championships were completed and he was ready to compete.

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After gold-like bronze, Samba targets Tokyo 2020

I ran here because it is World Championships in Qatar and I wanted to be here.
**James happy to be back with new kids on block**

Former Olympic champ bounces back after battling an auto immune disease

**SPOTLIGHT**

Qatari hurdler

Mariam Farid

still breaks down barriers

**FOCUS**

World champ Hassan ‘shocked’ by Salazar ban

**NOTES**

- **World champ Hassan ‘shocked’ by Salazar ban**

  - Hassan, who is coached by Salazar at the finishing line Nike Oregon Project, sprouted to a brilliant gold medal in the 10,000m at the Khalifa International Championships.

  - Hassan protested her preparation was sabotaged by the Nike-Copeland Aziz Salazar.

  - Hassan is the second gold in the 10,000m in Doha.

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- **SETBACK**

  - This investigation is focused on the period before I joined the Oregon Project and therefore is subject to all the relevant anti-doping rules.

  - Hassan said although she was aware of the investigation into Salazar before she joined the Oregon Project, she had monitored the absences of the athletes and otherwise had no contact.

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- **Salazar ban**

  - The coach works with athletes at the Nike-backed Oregon Project in Portland, but Nike said Salazar’s ban “had nothing to do with drug-related matters.”

  - Salazar said he has “no tolerance for anyone who breaks the rules or crosses the line.”

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Sights from Day 5 of the World Championships

Qatar’s Mutaz Barshim takes rest between his turn during the men’s high jump qualification round yesterday. PICTURES: Jayne O’Riordan & Reuters

Poland’s Piotr Lisek in action during the men’s pole vault final yesterday.

Kara Winger of the US reacts as she is introduced ahead of the women’s javelin throw final yesterday.

Sweden’s Armand Duplantis in action during the men’s pole vault final yesterday.

Qatar’s Ashraf Amgad El Seify in action during the men’s hammer throw qualification round yesterday.

Poland’s Piotr Lisek in action during the men’s pole vault final yesterday.

Falah the Falcon, the mascot for the IAAF World Athletics Championships Doha 2019, walks around Khalifa International Stadium yesterday.

Athletes compete during the men’s steeplechase heats yesterday.

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**TELEVISION**

The Washington Wizards yesterday named Hall of Famer Thorn as senior adviser to general manager Sheppard.

The 57-year-old Thorn was a player for 14 seasons and a coach and executive for 32 years. Thorn announced his retirement earlier this week.

Thorn is a member of the Wizards' ownership group and has been involved with the team since 2000. He is also a co-owner of the Connecticut Sun of the WNBA.

Thorn's new role will focus on player development and future strategic planning.

**BARRY, OSAKA ease into China Open last 16, Kerber knocked out**

Top seeds Ash Barty and Naomi Osaka crashed out of the last-16 stage of the China Open, in a pair of setbacks for those two top-ranked players.

**NFL**

Rudolph comes into his own in lopsided win over Bengals

**SPARTANBURG, S.C.**

An early Randy Bullock field goal accounted for the Bengals’ scoring.

Quarterback Andy Dalton, still without top receiver A.J. Green (toe strain), finished 12 of 17 passing yards with an 81-yard strike to Tyler Boyd in the second quarter. Boyd slipped a tackle on the play and the Bengals added 21 points to their 13-0 halftime lead.

A similar problem dogged the Bengals throughout the first half. Dalton completed just one of 10 passes in the third quarter before being replaced by Joe Burrow in the fourth.

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**NBA**

**Wizards hire Hall of Famer Thorn as senior adviser**

The Wizards announced yesterday that Hall of Famer Thorn has been named team president for their basketball operations and will be managed by general manager Sheppard.

Thorn was a player for 14 seasons and a coach and executive for 32 years. Thorn announced his retirement earlier this week.

Thorn’s new role will focus on player development and future strategic planning.
**RUGBY WORLD CUP**

We want to nail this — NZ to show no mercy to Canada

‘Certainly we want to go out there and make sure that individually we’re all in a good state’

**AFP**

**Focus**

Ireland star Sexton to return for match against Russia

**AFP**

**Spotlight**

Gattas suspended for three games

**AFP**

**France look to captain Picamoles to inspire against USA**

**AFP**

**Bottomline**

Top dignitaries impressed with Aspire Academy

**Sports**

The world-renowned South Korean sporting paradise has been hosting some of the world's most accomplished sporting figures during the Rugby World Cup. This weekend, Aspire Academy welcomed Irish and Italian teams to its facilities in Doha.

**Ireland**

Ireland head coach Andy Farrell speaks with counterpart Sandretto at a training session at the Stanners Training Ground in Japan. Farrell said in a statement. The panel deemed Gattas’s offence to be serious, and the starting No. 8 was suspended for three games.

**France**

France coach Fabien Galthie has named AlphonseSENS as the captain of his side, with two further games left in the tournament. The No. 8 will lead the French against Canada in their final pool match before the quarter-finals.

**Aspire Academy**

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India drop Pant; Saha set to don gloves against South Africa

He has done well with the bat whenever he has got a chance. It was unfortunate that he was out with an injury. According to me he is the best keeper the world.

India’s captain Virat Kohli also praised wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant, who had been the surprising choice for the first Test against South Africa.

The team also benefitted from an intensive two-month training camp held in France, designed to help enhance their batting skills in preparation for the upcoming World Test Championship for 5-year-old horses. The team began its winning run, as members of Al Shaqab’s endurance team claimed the 2019 World Endurance Championships.

Shaneil Nasser bin Nasser of Al Shaqab won the gold medal for the category of mares at the World Endurance Championships.

``The growth of the Losail mass activity event. 2016 has turned into a major mass activity event. We have high hopes that the number of participants will grow in this term. Male participants have been on the increase for the last few years. Female participants have been on the increase for the last few years. The number of female participants has increased by 42%. The number of female participants has increased by 42%. The number of female participants has increased by 42%. The number of female participants has increased by 42%. The number of female participants has increased by 42%.

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Al-Attiyah targets full European schedule after MERC win

Qatar’s Nasser al-Attiyah on Wednesday clinched his fourth European Rally Championship (ERC) victory by finishing second in the final round of the event in Bruges.

The 2020 ERC rally champion clinched the title by finishing second in the rally in Belgium to complete a fourth title triumph of his career.

Al-Attiyah was second in the annual ERC event, which he had won five times, including the last two years.

He became only the second driver in ERC history to win four successive ERC titles.

His four ERC titles also make him only the third driver in ERC history to win more than three consecutive ERC championships.

He was second in both legs of the rally event, finishing second overall.

“I am really happy with how things went,” he said. “It was a great weekend for us and we are really happy with the result.”

Al-Attiyah said he was looking forward to the next year’s ERC schedule.

“After this win, we will focus on the next ERC season,” he said. “We are looking forward to the next year and we are confident we can win again.”

Lukas Michalak wanted a penalty for a clash with Bruges’ Carlos Matos and Matt Fidell while a penalty for a foul on Madrid’s Marco Asensio was also seen.

Madrid’s Real Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois also had a couple of crucial stops, including a save against Bruges’ Gonzalo Higuaín.

Real Madrid’s Brazilian midfielder Casemiro (right) celebrates after scoring during the UEFA Champions League Group A match against Club Brugge at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium in Madrid yesterday.

Madrid looked vulnerable to a first-half Brugge and Fidell attack. In between, a high-sided header wound up at the post, before Casemiro claimed a first-half goal.

After the half-time break, Fidell was sent off after being shown a second yellow card.

With ten men, Fidell was sent off after being shown a second yellow card.

The hosts got their first clear-cut chance within just eight minutes when a corner was deflected into the top corner by defender Joel Matip.

The ball was then careless at the other end, allowing Madrid’s Vinicius Junior to dribble into the box and score.

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