World Cup winner Hurst thrilled to participate in Qatar National Sport Day

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Qatar’s al-Attiyah cruises to overall lead in Oman

By Our Correspondent

Matthieu Baumel dominated the opening leg of the Oman International Rally yesterday. Amongst a formidable field of competitors, the Qatari reached the night halt with a lead of 2min 07.6sec of the 2020 FIA Middle East Rally Championship overall leaders, of whom Qatar’s Nasser Saleh al-Attiyah and his French co-driver Giovanni Bernacchini had started the day. The Mitsubishi Lancer Evo X, but the rally was far from over, and Qatar’s Nasser Saleh al-Attiyah and his French co-driver Matthieu Baumel in action during the Oman International Rally yesterday.

Khalid al-Manji and Jassim al-Alawi finished the order well placed in the rankings as well, with Derek O’Brien looking set to reach the night halt with a lead of 2min 07.6sec of the 2020 FIA Middle East Rally Championship overall leaders, of whom Qatar’s Nasser Saleh al-Attiyah and his French co-driver Giovanni Bernacchini had started the day.

Nasser Khalifa al-Attiyah and Jordanian navigator Khalid al-Manji set the fastest time of the day in the first leg of the 2020 FIA Middle East Rally Championship overall leaders, of whom Qatar’s Nasser Saleh al-Attiyah and his French co-driver Giovanni Bernacchini had started the day.

Muscat, Oman

By Sports Reporter

Qatar’s al-Attiyah cruises to overall lead in Oman

Qatar won one of the day’s six gravel special stages in the opening round of the MERC, Nasser Khalifa al-Attiyah third

OVERALL STANDINGS

1. Nasser Saleh al-Attiyah (QAT)/Matthieu Baumel (FRA)
2. Al-Wardi (OMN)/Issa mar al-Balooshi (OMN)
3. Al-Rawahi (OMN)/Rony Maroun (LBN)
4. Zakariya al-Ofi (OMN)/Matthieu Baumel (FRA)
5. Jarah al-Tauqi (OMN)/Issa Jalo (OMN)
6. Meshari al-Thefiri (KWT)/Matthieu Baumel (FRA)
7. Khalid al-Manji (OMN)/Rony Maroun (LBN)
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Getting into the spirit of National Sport Day, he’ll also be pleased to be able to officially return to a number of football games in Oman’s own, specially staged tournament, which will see staff from a number of local construction businesses face each other with a series of friendly matches as part of the company’s programme of employee-control activities.

Sir Geoff said: “The notion of a National Sport Day is much more than just a day for me. It’s a day to put people together and create a sense of community.

Sir Geoff will also enjoy stats to the Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum, and the FIFA World Cup 2022 stadium at Al Rayyan. Of course, he won’t be here to observe. Sir Geoff has been invited to tour some of the venues that will enable the country and the wider region to achieve its sporting ambitions in the long term.

Work with stadiums over the past two years has demonstrated that they are prepared to welcome Sir Geoff to Qatar in March before the ceremonial finish at the Al-Wadi Stadium and the start of the Qatar National Sport Day festivities, which will see staff from a number of local construction businesses face each other with a series of friendly matches as part of the company’s programme of employee-control activities.

The event for the day has been overwhelmingly positive, and it’s great fun to take on the role of referee — although I can’t promise my decisions will please everyone. I have been competitive throughout, but I’ve come in peace at pride. That’s why all the successful products are about bringing people together and creating a sense of community. If it means in-field entertainment and passion, it’s about hard work and creativity, and resilience and about individuality and teamwork. These are the qualities that you need inside and outside of the sporting arena if you are to succeed.

With offices in a number of Arab nations, Gleeds understands the importance of sport across the Middle East and has fully endorsed the initiative being taken by the Qatar Olympic and Sports Museum.

As a business, it continues to play an integral part in the delivery of some of the venues that will enable the country and the wider region to achieve its sporting ambitions in the long term.

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Shaheen shines as Pakistan blowout Bangladesh for 233

Shaheen recorded figures of 4-31 as Pakistan routed Bangladesh for 233 in the first Test in Rawalpindi yesterday.

BOTTOMLINE

BCCI ends hibernation, ICC braces for sleepless nights over scheduling

S

uccess generally has prompted India's cricket board to launch a three-year plan and to plan for the Test season to be included in that plan. The calendar is currently scheduled for the next three years and the chief selector has stated that the board will be looking at ways to include the Tests in the schedule.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has been rebuked by the government for not taking into account the Test matches. The government has stated that the board should take into account the Test matches and not any other format of the game.

Meanwhile, the Chief Selector has stated that the board will be looking at ways to include the Tests in the schedule and not any other format of the game. The board has also stated that the Tests will be included in the schedule in the next three years.

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South Africa's World Cup hero, Siya Kolisi, has issued a warning to his former Springbok teammate, Eben Etzebeth, after they were both found guilty of racism.

"You can't get away with it," Kolisi said. "You can't use that as an excuse. You have to take responsibility for your actions."

But, on a more serious note, the 26-year-old was concerned about the impact of the ruling on the future of the two players.

"There's a lot at stake here," he said. "It's not just about the suspension. It's about setting a precedent."
By Sports Reporter

Canada’s Taylor grabs lead; Mickelson starts well

‘I WAS VERY TENTATIVE WITH MY PACE BECAUSE THE GREENS WERE PRETTY QUICK AND I JUST WASN’T AGGRESSIVE ENOUGH’

Nick Taylor of Canada plays his shot from the sixth tee during the first round of the AS&G Pebble Beach Pro-Am at Monterey Peninsula Country Club in Pebble Beach, California on Thursday. (AFP)

France’s Robin ahead in Australia

Robin Stockel led the second-round 50-man cut by an impressive seven shots as he went on to win the Noosa Asia-Pacific Masters. Stockel’s overall score of 66 in the second round put him on 13-under par for 54 holes. Second place was occupied by Australia’s Andrew Martin and American Bill Haas, both on 9-under par.

At the end of the first round, Stockel was 12-under par, followed by Martin and Haas on 7-under par. Martin has a career-high ranking of 72nd in the world, while Haas is ranked 95th.

The second round was played on the 7,025-yard 72-par course at the Sunshine Coast's Noosa Springs Golf and Country Club. Stockel, who shot a 62 on the first day, finished with a 66 for a total of 132, which is a course record.

The third round is scheduled for Sunday, with the final round on Monday.
**SPORTS**

**NBA**

**Westbrook scores 41 as Rockets shoot down Lakers 121-111**

*I'M HAPPY THAT WE'RE WINNING AND WE'RE PLAYING GOOD*

Westbrook had 41 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists in the Rockets' 121-111 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Thursday.

Anthony Davis led Lakers with 12 points.

Lakers' LeBron James tied Michael Jordan with 1,070 career playoff triple-doubles.

James had 21 points, 15 rebounds and nine assists.
Felix sets sights on fifth Olympics after year of change

Felix plans to compete in the 200-metre and 400-metre races in Tokyo

"It was outside of my comfort zone, for sure, to talk about very personal situations," she explained. "It feels good to talk about the experiences across all industries where women work, first and foremost in sports, but also in the workplace and in politics." Felix said the "me too"-era was "dramatically changing" the way she feels she can come out and speak her truth. "It definitely was a wildcard call to a lot of people."

Felix returned to competition last year and said sticking to the plan — as an athlete that's comfortable to be able to come out and to speak her truth — Felix said. "I think the relationship definitely has shifted. Communication as far as what's happening right now, other people."

"It just speaks to the power of thecollective and what's happening right now," she explained. "But I do feel like the project is for working mothers and maintaining abusive behaviour at the Nike Oregon Project.

"It just speaks to the power of the collective and what's happening right now, other people."

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Guardiola keen for Messi to finish career at Barcelona

He is a Barcelona player and he will stay there, that’s my wish for him to stay there.

By Jenine Jackson The Guardian

Guardiola has said he hopes to win what would be his fourth Champions League title with Bayern Munich, but he has no plans to leave the club, even if the team does not win the competition.

"I hope to win the Champions League with Bayern Munich," he said. "But I have no plans to leave the club, even if we do not win the competition."
By Sports Reporter

Football

FOOTBALL

Alhi have won the Amir Cup four times, the first of which came in 1973 and the last in 1992.

Athletic Club in Barcelona, Spain, on February 18. PSG have not made it to the quarter-finals in the previous two seasons of the UEFA Champions League. The big question for the Parisians is whether they can manage the pain. "It was no need for him to show a reaction," head coach Thomas Tuchel. "He was in pain at half-time and the medical staff told him he should not continue playing. He showed a reaction to the way his ribs were injured. He was not able to play because of the pain."

In a fast-paced match, both teams Attacks on goals missed chances before former Senegal star Mohamed Diame rose high to produce a cracking header in the 94th minute. His shot was ruled it offside.

Despite their victory, the Parisians are still in the running for a spot in the Champions League. Their next game is against Real Madrid at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Football

Could Neymar, Mbappe antics derail PSG as season enters crunch time?

Real Sociedad’s Alexander Isak (left) celebrates with teammates after scoring against Al Ain in the final of the Copa del Rey. Al Ain have won the Amir Cup four times, the first of which came in 1973 and the last in 1992.

With just two minutes on the clock with 27m 59s left, Diame scored a late winner as Al Ahli edged out Qatar Sports Club to book its place in the quarter-finals. It is Al Ahli’s third appearance in the Champions League in the previous ten years.

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