"I haven’t slept properly since the historic achievement ended my efforts and I am in no doubt about how his conversations with me guided the Qatar Emir Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani (President of the Qatar Olympic Committee), I was at all the time of the preparations and the biggest players in weightlifting competitions there. But I said that he would continue to support me, and he continued to support me. He also said, ‘‘Hamad asked him, ‘Are you confident of winning gold?’ ‘Yes, I am confident.’ From there, there was the first gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics, and he continued to support me. Even three days after the achievement, he came strongly to level it at 15-15 and maintained it till 17-17. However, after the game, there were surprises. In such high-pressure moments, it is a risk, but a calculated risk. That is what my conversations with His Highness the Amir are. We have been continuous work. As he said yesterday, ‘Bronze. ’ After 11-11 in the second set, the match changed. The world No. 1 and his assistant coach and the entire playing squad and coaching staff constantly supported me with an Olympic record. We knew that we won today. The guys from Qatar, the boys with a superb block. As he said, ‘Winning gold is the beginning of our motivation to prepare for the future. ’"
**Cycling**

Braspennincx comes back from heart attack to win keirin gold

Spain's Sanchez lends karate's historic first Olympic gold

**Boxing**

Russian Batygaziev delivers on golden promise

**Golf**

Nelly Korda fires 62 for four-shot lead

**Focus**

Spain’s Sanchez lends karate’s historic first Olympic gold

**Baseball**

Ueda with a higher athletic score than the home favourites and two-time former world champion Braspennincx in a thrilling three-way tussle for the podium after winning the track cycling keirin final in Izu, Japan.

**W**orld number one Nelly Korda put herself in prime position to achieve something no other American woman had done in 40 years after a heart attack almost ended her career. Korda edged out New Zealand’s Elizabeth Andrews by 0.061sec to win the women’s keirin yesterday, six days after a heart attack almost ended her career.

The 24-year-old athlete has been at the forefront of leading American women this year, as they look to make up for lost time after the Tokyo Games were postponed last year due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The sport was included for the first time on the Olympic programme for the 2020 Games after decades of lobbying by the sport’s governing body, the International Olympic Committee.

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Korda started at 13-under par for the final 18 holes at the par-71 layout, meaning a birdie would have given her the only second 54-hole win in women’s professional golf history. Korda had the best round of the tournament with a 62, and ended up with a four-shot lead with 23-year-old Emily Kristine Pedersen of Denmark, who said the 23-year-old, who won her first major last year at the ANA Inspiration, was a “different level altogether”.

Birdies at the par-4 12th and par-3 13th, 14th, 16th and 17th followed before Korda putted for a birdie at the 12th. Birdies at the par-3 14th, 15th and 16th gave her a 9-under par lead after 13 holes.

Korda, who has a four-shot cushion on the chasing pack with two rounds to play, through the threat of an approaching tropical storm system could shorten the event to 54 holes, organisers said. That means Korda could be just round away from doing the one thing her mother, hall of fame golfer Annika Sorenstam, could not.

“I was like, oh, cool, I have a pretty good lead,” she said. “I was like, ‘I’m trying to get my old self back.’ I’m actually in the lead, and now I am going to go home and really empty my stomach. It’s like the first time I feel like I have the stomach flu."

Korda’s round included a five-iron second shot on the par-5 11th that chipped in, and a third on par-4 12th that she parred to set up a 10-under par final total of 234. She played her way into the lead with a 62 in the final round.

“I had to sort of sit on top of the world rankings for the last two years, I know that it’s going to be a possibility. It’s the first time I’ve had the chance to do this,” she said.

When asked about a gold medal, she said: “I have put in hard work, you reap the rewards. It just goes to show, if you do, it’s going to work."

Andrews was left to ask: “Is it real? It’s going to be there. It’s going to be there. It’s going to be there."

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ENGLAND'S JOFA ARCHER OUT OF ASHES, T20 WORLD CUP

A

Al Shaqab Racing's Shaikha impresses on debut

Agence France-Presse

Al Shaqab Racing's Shaikha impresses on debut when Rahul had merely been run out even before he being bested by his nemesis. into the match but intermittent balls to inject fresh excitement loss, India had a near-perfect two days to complete his 14th loss, with Jos Buttler taking both the dour Cheteshwar Pujara and from the break to dismiss the son bounced out Rohit Sharma openers was inching towards the S

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An electric atmosphere sending a forehand just wide. Fans yelled for a Nadal comeback.

R

Rafael Nadal made a triumphant return from a two-month layoff in Madrid, and needed a walk-off to survive American Jack Sock and book his place in the ATP 250 semi-finals.

Rafael Nadal finished runner-up with 2009, 2017, 2018 and 2019. Polesilek, his English is still flags with his race number, 46, for a "pee break," attracted at-

Motocycling great Rossi rides off into the sunset

AFP

Italian motocycling legend Valentino Rossi called time on a career spanning more than two decades on Monday, bringing the curtain down on a glittering career. The "Doctor" dominated the first decade of the new millennium and won seven world titles in MotoGP before his retirement.

TEST

England bowler James Anderson is fit for the second Test despite undergoing surgery in May to remove a piece of glass from his finger fol-

TENNIS

Nadal battles to victory in return from two-month layoff

AFP

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HORSE RACING

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**ATHLETICS**

Sporting Steven Vanasch celebrates after winning the 400m final during the Tokyo Olympics yesterday (Reuters)

**BASKETBALL**

Durant-led USA to face France in final

The medal in Tokyo possesses enormous significance for India, a former hockey powerhouse which has a proud history of eight Olympic gold medals to its credit.

Gold medalistankind the men’s team benefited from a powerful performance from the two 3x3 matches.

France won the first and second gold medals, the latter coming in the men’s match against the USA.

The French team faced a tough challenge in the first half, as they found themselves down 1-0 against the USA.

However, in the second half, France came back strongly, scoring a goal to tie the match and keep it close.

In the end, France emerged victorious, winning the match 2-1 and advancing to the semi-finals.

India, on the other hand, faced an uphill task against the USA, who are considered one of the favorites in the tournament.

Despite giving their best, India could not overcome the USA’s superior skills and tactics.

Nonetheless, India’s performance against the USA was commendable, as they showed great resilience and fighting spirit throughout the match.

India’s loss to the USA marked the end of their Olympic campaign, but it also served as a learning experience for the team, which will aim to improve in future tournaments.

India will now focus on their matches in the 3x3 format, where they have a better chance of success.

**GARDNER WINS US MEN ENDURANCE DAY TO FORGET**

Carl Lewis and Michael Johnson call out US men’s 4x100 relay performance “an embarrassment”

**HOCKEY**

Belgium claim first gold after shootout win over Australia

**BASKETBALL**

Durant-led USA to face France in final

USA’s Kevin Durant (centre) attempts to score past Australia’s Chris Goulding (left) and Nic Kay during the semi-final at Saitama Super Arena in Saitama, Japan. (AFP)

Rapinoe, Lloyd doubles secure USA bronze

Golden State Warriors center Stephen Curry (centre) celebrated after winning the 400m final during the Tokyo Olympics yesterday (Reuters)

Golden State Warriors center Stephen Curry (centre) celebrated after winning the 400m final during the Tokyo Olympics yesterday (Reuters)

**SQUAD TO WATCH OUT FOR IN TOKYO**

Australia’s formation to be completed so far in major events.

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