Tennis

Lorenzo-Vera stays tied for lead despite problems on 18th

Canada reach first Davis Cup final with win over Russia

FOOTBALL

‘It’s an opportunity to evaluate our work as organisers’

Local Organising Committee Director of Marketing Khalid Mubarak al-Kuwari talks about a range of topics ahead of the 24th edition of the Arabian Gulf Cup

The 24th Arabian Gulf Cup is one of the most highly-anticipated football tournaments in the region and especially in Qatar this season. The Asian Cup was held in the same year, but there has not been a tournament for the past two years since 2019, when Qatar hosted the tournament in a thrilling fi nal that was decided on penalties against Oman.

Qatar is back as defending champions after securing honours at the 23rd edition of the Arabian Gulf Cup in 2019. The tournament, which was held at the Khalifa International Stadium, was void of any problems and is undoubtedly the key including attracting the residential community is undoubtedly the key.

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**REPORT**

**Rampant India on brink of big win in night Test**

‘When there are lights the ball starts swinging more and it is a bit challenging’

**FOCUS**

**Wallington century guides NZ to lead against England**

Batsman

Wallington scored the first century on his ODI debut as New Zealand went into the fourth day at 295 for seven, leading New Zealand by 152 in the first Test against England at the Gabba in Brisbane yesterday.

Wallington ended the day on 129 not out, having been dismissed at the close of the day on the fourth day of the first Test at Brisbane. Management.

Wallington and Warner scored 250 for four wickets against New Zealand. The pair added 121 for the second wicket and 175 for the third wicket.

New Zealand had started their day on 164 for four and England had high hopes of running through their middle order, especially when the last New Zealand had put up a strong resistance in the first innings, scoring 164 for four.

New Zealand had lost their last four wickets on day three to leave England 295 for seven in their second innings.

**SPOTLIGHT**

**Australia dominate Pakistan with bat and ball**

Australia captured the first Test against Pakistan with a dominant performance on the fourth day of the four-match series at the Gabba in Brisbane yesterday.

Australia dominated Pakistan with a bat and ball on the fourth day of the first Test, taking a 131-run lead into the second innings.

Australia’s batsmen totaled 334 runs throughout the day, which was followed by an impressive bowling performance from the hosts.

Australia’s bowlers took control throughout the day, with Australia scoring 128 for three in their second innings.

**MFP**

**MFP**

**Australia**

Australia is the top-ranked Test team in the world. They will be hoping to continue their dominance in the series against Pakistan.

**Pakistan**

Pakistan are looking to bounce back from a disappointing first Test defeat. They will be hoping to put in a better performance in the second Test.

**Scorecard**

**ENGLAND**

England is currently ranked sixth in the Test team rankings. They will be looking to improve their performance in the second Test.

**Scorecard**

**NEW ZEALAND**

New Zealand is currently ranked fourth in the Test team rankings. They will be looking to continue their good form in the second Test.
Lorenzo-Vera stays tried for lead despite problems on 18th

I think I played better today than yesterday. Some better shots all day long.

**LPGA TOUR**

**KPMG PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP - TINA'S WORLD**

KIM takes two-shot lead after birdbie finish

**PGA TOUR**

**TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP**

Todd in hunt for third consecutive win

**OLYMPICS**

Russian athletics chief resigns;
RUSSADA boss expects new suspension

**SPORTS**

**GOLF WORLD TOUR**

Michael Lorenzo-Vera of France takes a shot during the DP World Tour Championship at Jumeirah Golf Estates in Dubai yesterday. (AP)

**THE RACE TO DUBAI**

Order of Merit leader Bernd Wiesberger and European No. 1 after the legendary Seve Ballesteros. England's Tommy Fleetwood, pictured, was second to the Irishman to become the European Tour Championship yesterday. (AP)

**FIFA WORLD CUP**

**TODD'S TRICK TO THE TOP**

Tedd Todd, seeking to become the first player since Tiger Woods to win three straight majors, plans to replace the injured Sergio Garcia with Jordan Spieth in the United States Ryder Cup squad.

**ATHLETICS**

Under new rules, WADA has the power to ban Russian athletes from international competition but its ExCo is half made up of members from the sports organisations that it is regulating and earning its income from.

**POLITICS**

IOC allowed Russians to compete as neutrals at the 2014 Winter Olympics but its ExCo is half made up of members from the sports organisations that it is regulating and earning its income from—this is juridical logic. "This is a process that has served us well. It is just not as complicated as it sounds. But if we continue to use it, we will need to protect the athletes’ sport and competition."

**SCIENCE**

Shlyakhtin resigned at an emergency RusAF leadership meeting yesterday he expects the WADA ExCo to readmit RusAF over the latest athletics allegations but it is widely believed that the country will be declared non-compliant again in a possible step towards the 2020 Olympics. Michael Johnson (2017) and Rory McIlroy (2018) have faded however after they could only manage a three-under-par 69 and four-under-par 65 respectively. After the round, the world number nine and two-time champion Justin Thomas, who started the day with a three-under-par 69, had four-under-par 65, Paul Casey finished his round with a three-under-par 69, Kevin Na of South Korea shot a five-under-par 67, Dustin Johnson finished his round with a five-under-par 67. "The start was good, the finish was good as well, I think I played better today than yesterday. Some better shots all day long," said Rory McIlroy, who finished his round with a six-under-par 66. Michael Lorenzo-Vera of France and Tommy Fleetwood, who finished his round with a five-under-par 65, were two shots back. The 2017 champion Jordan Spieth shot a three-under-par 69. After the round, the world number three and two-time champion Dustin Johnson said: "This is a process that has served us well. It is just not as complicated as it sounds. But if we continue to use it, we will need to protect the athletes’ sport and competition."

**BUSINESS**

McIlroy, who finished his round with a six-under-par 66, said: "We’ve changed things a bit, we’ve changed our focus. I think we’ve been able to take steps forward. I’m not sure if we’ve spoken about it before but we’ve talked about a bit more relaxation in our game."

**TECHNOLOGY**

"This is a process that has served us well. It is just not as complicated as it sounds. But if we continue to use it, we will need to protect the athletes’ sport and competition."

**WADADA**

ROC said late Friday that its ExCo allowed Russian athletes to compete as neutrals at the 2014 Winter Olympics but its ExCo is half made up of members from the sports organisations that it is regulating and earning its income from—this is juridical logic. "This is a process that has served us well. It is just not as complicated as it sounds. But if we continue to use it, we will need to protect the athletes’ sport and competition."

"This is a process that has served us well. It is just not as complicated as it sounds. But if we continue to use it, we will need to protect the athletes’ sport and competition."
Doha: World tennis No. 1 Rafael Nadal and countryman Roberto Bautista Agut reached the semi-finals of the ATP Qatar Open on Wednesday after simulating the Davis Cup final.

Nadal, seeking to win his third ATP title this season, fought back from a set behind to beat second seed Andrey Rublev 3-6, 7-6 (4), 6-1 on day five at the Khalifa International Tennis Complex.

Rublev, who fended off a fightback from Canada's Vasek Pospisil to win their first meeting 6-4, 7-6 (5), had to rally to save three match points in the second set.

Rublev, who won his ninth straight match, was ahead 3-1 when Nadal broke back to level the score. Nadal then held his serve twice to grab a 5-4 lead before Rublev finally gave in.

Rublev dropped the first set as he threw away a 4-1 lead. But Rublev eventually broke Nadal's serve again to level the score in the second set.

Rublev had also lost to Nadal in the ATP Paris Masters final in November.

The win moved Nadal into the semi-finals for the first time since 1998 and set up a meeting with eighth seed Bautista Agut, who battled past American Sam Querrey 6-7 (3), 7-6 (4), 6-1.

Nadal leads their head-to-head record 7-0, although their last meeting did come 15 years ago in 2006.

“We're playing good tennis and it's impressive,” said Nadal of his form. “I’m really happy with the way I’m playing,” he added.

Nadal's quarter-final opponent will be eighth seed Bautista Agut, who ended a 13-match losing streak to Querrey.

Bautista Agut, world No. 9, needed four hours and 42 minutes to win 18 of 20 service games to emerge with a 6-3, 6-4, 6-1 victory.

Bautista Agut's win at the Mediterranean resort of Doha took his career singles record against Querrey to 2-5.

Querrey, who had beaten Bautista Agut in the quarter-finals of the US Open last year, was coming off a loss to Alexei Popyrin in the WTA-WTA Match Masters in Kuwait.

Querrey had reached the quarter-finals of the Qatar Open last year before losing to Benoit Paire in straight sets.

The American, who leads Nadal 5-4 in their career meetings, was coming off a three-set win over 39th-ranked Russian Andrey Rublev.

Nadal is looking for only his fourth title of the year and his first since taking theATP 250 tournament in Argentina in September.

It was his 80th career titles, 39 of which came on clay courts.

The 32-year-old Nadal is set to play his 14th grand slam final when he faces world No. 11 Dominik Koepfer in the semi-final.

Koepfer defeated 14th seed Diego Schwartzman 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 to reach his first singles final in his 21st grand slam tournament.

Schwartzman was seeking his first appearance in a singles final at the Australian Open.

Meanwhile, eighth seed Diego Schwartzman was level with Nadal in their career meetings at 1-1, having won their last meeting in 2015.
**SPORTS**

**NBA**

It feels great. We are trying to build something

LeBron James scored 27 points and grabbed 13 rebounds while Paul George had 19 points as the Los Angeles Clippers rallied late to beat the Houston Rockets 122-119 on Friday night. The Clippers outscored the Rockets 30-20 over the final 10 minutes to overcome a 13-point deficit.

Williams got the Clippers a 138-137 lead with 0.6 seconds remaining by doing this three-point shot. Harden then made two free throws to narrow Houston's lead to 138-139, with 23.2 seconds to go. After Lebron's basket, Harden missed a 3-pointer from deep on the left side of the key. The shot clock was winding down, but not quite.

The Clippers scored 10 points in the second half of a blowout win over the Houston Rockets on Friday night. They outscored the Rockets 30-20 over the final 10 minutes to overcome a 13-point deficit.

The sold-out crowd at the Scotiabank Arena roared as the Toronto Maple Leafs hosted the Washington Capitals in their first game of the season.

The Leafs had the last word, however, as they rallied late to beat the-capitals 3-2. William Nylander scored the winning goal with 1:54 left in regulation, giving the Leafs their first win of the season after two losses to start.

**NFL**

Steelers look to get back to business at Cincinnati

The Pittsburgh Steelers are looking to get back to business in Cincinnati after an emotional week. The team missed its starting left tackle, Joe Thomas, for the first time this season due to a hand injury.

The team finished 1-0 after the Week 1 bye and has won both of its games on the road. The three-time Pro Bowl left tackle was not with the team on Thursday as the AFC North leaders prepared for their Week 2 game against the Bengals.

The Steelers have lost two straight games, including the season opener against the Cleveland Browns, and are looking to get their season back on track against the Bengals. They play in Cincinnati on Sunday.

The Browns finished 4-3-1 last season and are coming off a loss to the Tennessee Titans on Sunday. They are getting ready to face the Bengals in Week 1 after a bye week.

Steelers head coach Mike Tomlin said his team is ready to get back to business.

**NHL**

Senators lead from start to finish against Rangers

The Ottawa Senators took a 4-0 lead early and never looked back in a 5-2 win over the New York Rangers on Friday night.

The Senators scored four goals in the first period, including an empty-netter with 41 seconds remaining, to take a 4-0 lead into the third period. They added another goal early in the third to put the game out of reach.

Logan Brown, Tyler Ennis and Anthony Davis made four clutch free throws to restore Houston's lead, but Harden missed a three point attempt in the final minutes to secure the win.

The Senators scored their final goal on a power play with 30 seconds remaining in the game. They added another goal in the final minute to put the game out of reach.

The Cleveland Cavaliers have now lost three straight and five of their last six games. They are off to a slow start to the season and are looking for a win in their next game.

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Bayern climb to 2nd as Gladbach slip up in Berlin

BAYERN Munich's Canadian midfielder Alphonso Davies (9) celebrates scoring a goal against 1. FC Union Berlin as he makes his way to the dressing room as substitute for Gnabry to replace him. Bayern Munich's Canadian midfielder Alphonso Davies (9) celebrates scoring a goal against 1. FC Union Berlin as he makes his way to the dressing room as substitute for Gnabry to replace him.
**FOOTBALL**

**PREMIER LEAGUE**

**City keep Liverpool in sights with win over Chelsea**

Arsenal needed a stoppage-time goal to draw 2.2 with lowly Southampton.

Manchester City kept Premier League leaders Liverpool in their sights yesterday after Kevin De Bruyne equalised after lowly Southampton.

Leicester saw off Brighton 2-0 to stay in the lead before Giacomo Bonaventura levelled for AC Milan in the 89th minute.

**SERIE A**

**Higuain, Dybala score late to keep Juve on top**

Juventus' Gonzalo Higuain and Paulo Dybala celebrate after the win over match Atalanta yesterday.

Playing today (all times GMT):
- Genoa v Parma (1130), Verona v Fiorentina (1300), Espanyol v Getafe (1400), Osasuna v Athletic (1500), Eibar v Alaves (1700), Villarreal v Celta Vigo (1730), Real Valladolid (2000), Napoli 1 (Lozano 24), Lecce v Cagliari (1945).

Tomorrow (1000):
- Atlético de Madrid v Real Madrid (Spanish Super Cup, Round 1), Borussia Dortmund.

**LA LIGA**

**Barcelona sneak past Leganes as Atletico hold again**

Barcelona's forward Luis Suarez (right) celebrates after scoring a goal in La Liga.

**FOOTBALL**

**SERIE A RESULTS**

La Spezia 0-2 Lazio (Ciro Immobile 3, 66) Torino 0-0 Sassuolo, Sassuolo 1 (Dzeko 7), Atalanta 2 (Dybala 51, Ilicic 68), Bologna 1 (Lopez 52), Genoa 0-1 Inter, Benevento 2 (Gonzalez 46, 82), Udinese 0-6 AC Milan (Kessie 17, 27, Rebic 7, 33, Osimhen 84+1, Poli 52), Torino 0-4 Inter, Fiorentina 2 (Ramos 60, 79), Lazio 2 (Immobile 3, 66), Atalanta 2 (Dybala 51, Ilicic 68), Lecce 1 (Costa 43), Lecce 2 (Costa 43) 3-1 Udinese.

**FOOTBALL**

**SERIE A RESULTS**

**FOOTBALL**

**FOOTBALL**

**PREMIER LEAGUE**

**European Roundup**

Chelsea 12 points behind the pacesetters.
By Sports Reporter

Forward Ismail confident of Qatar’s success at Gulf Cup

‘We, as Asian champions, have a quality group of players. Our goal is to do well in every competition’

Ismail feels a victory against Iraq will be a high-level event in the tournament in the region and India will be a difficult team to beat.

Qatar will meet Iraq in the Gulf Cup final this weekend.

"We are keen to put our best foot forward. Participating in the Gulf Cup is a prestigious thing. We know that is an exceptional championship, with eyes of the GCC on the tournament. We are excited as well as determined to enjoy the next two weeks," the Duhail winger added.

"We, as Asian champions, have a quality group of players. Our goal is to do well in every competition," Ismail said of the Asian Cup.

Qatar and India will meet in the Gulf Cup final on Saturday.

"We have not been at our best in the beginning of the last season, but I am confident we will be a completely different side in the Gulf Cup and we will be a competitive and strong team," Ismail said.

"I feel the magnitude of the occasion will help the players to give their best." The Gulf Cup is a special competition, which gives players an added incentive to perform and since the Gulf Cup is a high-level competition, we are well aware of the significance of the tournament on the region and India will be a difficult team to beat," Ismail said.

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