

China's Qian Yang shoots the first gold of Tokyo Olympic Games



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Sheikh Joaan meets Kuwait Olympic Committee President



HE President of the Qatar Olympic Committee, Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani met in Tokyo with HE President of the Kuwait Olympic Committee Sheikh Fahad Nasser Al Sabah on Saturday on their visit to the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympic Games. The meeting reviewed aspects of sports cooperation and ways to support and develop them. The meeting was attended by HE Secretary-General of Qatar Olympic Committee Jassim Rashid Al Buenain and HE Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Japan Hassan bin Mohammed Al Emadi.

Qatar's lifter Ibrahim, swimmer Al Obaidly join team in Tokyo



Qatar's weightlifter Fares Ibrahim (right) and swimmer Abdulaziz Al Obaidly arrived at the Olympic Village to join Team Qatar in Tokyo on Saturday. Fares will be participating in the men's 96kg event on July 31st. He underwent extensive preparations for Olympics and recently returned to Doha from a training camp in Georgia that lasted for months. Al Obaidly, 19, also shone in FINA World Cup events and has been dominating the GCC Championships. He will compete in men's 200m breaststroke at the Tokyo Aquatics Centre on July 27.

Carapaz claims historic win for Ecuador in cycling road race

DPA
TOKYO

CYCLIST Richard Carapaz claimed just a second-ever Olympic gold medal for Ecuador on Saturday with a stunning victory in the men's road race at the Tokyo Games.

The 28-year-old combined with American Brendon McNulty to break clear from the leading group with 24 kilometres to go and began a decisive solo run to gold with 6km left.



Ecuador's Richard Carapaz celebrates as he rides to the finish line to win the men's cycling road race during the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games at the Fuji International Speedway in Oyama, Japan, on Saturday. (AFP)

“My country will be over the moon right now. It's a very special moment for us.”

Richard Carapaz of Ecuador

McNulty faded and was hauled in by the pack who fought for silver and bronze with Belgium's Wout van Aert crossing a fraction ahead of Slovenian Tour de France champion Tadej Pogacar 67 seconds behind the winner.

Carapaz, a former Giro d'Italia winner who took third-place in the Tour earlier this month, won in an epic 6 hours 5 minutes and 26 seconds over 234km around Mount Fuji before coasting to victory on the Fuji Speedway, a former Formula One race track.

Carapaz's medal is just the third for Ecuador in their Olympic history and first gold since race walker Jefferson Perez won the men's 20km race walk at Atlanta 1996.

“My country will be over the moon right now,” said Carapaz. “It's a very special moment for us.”

Racing in 32 degree heat and with 5,000m of climbs, an optimistic breakaway claimed a 20-minute lead to the peloton as various riders took their moment in the sun.

Most, well short of the world tour level of those pursuing them, were among the 41 who failed to finish, a group which also included British former Tour de France winner Geraint Thomas after yet another crash, this time with team-mate Tao Geoghegan Hart.

“All good with me,” he later tweeted and joked he had done “something bad in a previous life”. Freak crash, Tao lost his front wheel and decked it in front of me. I had nowhere to go, other than the floor as well.”

The first serious probe was made by Pogacar with 37km remaining but, perhaps drained from defending his title in France, he lacked the conviction to get away.

Instead it was Carapaz and



South Korea's An San (R) and Kim Je-doek react while competing in the mixed team quarter-finals during the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games at Yumenoshima Park Archery Field in Tokyo on Saturday. (AFP)

McNulty who put some serious distance between themselves and the leading pack, more than 40 seconds at one point but with this gap cut to around 10 seconds with 12km left, the Ecuadorian gold was far from guaranteed.

“Of course I had doubts, there were strong riders behind who could have attacked but in the end the 30 seconds was all I needed,” said Carapaz.

As the pack began to think of their own individual medal hopes - and fearing the sprint pace of Van Aert - they failed to form a coherent chasing group to let Carapaz steam clear with enough time to relish his success crossing the line.

“It's beautiful, but I came here to win of course,” said Van Aert. “Carapaz stayed ahead very well. We knew he would be very, very strong, and he deserved the win.”

McNulty eventually finished sixth behind the Netherlands' Bauke Mollema, who narrowly missed the medals in the sprint, and Canada's Michael Woods in fifth.

China's Yang wins first Tokyo gold
 The first gold medal of the Tokyo Olympic Games was awarded to Qian Yang of China in the women's 10-metre air rifle event on Saturday morning.

MEDALS TALLY

Country	G	S	B	T
China	3	0	1	4
Italy	1	1	0	2
Japan	1	1	0	2
S Korea	1	0	2	3
Ecuador	1	0	0	1
Hungary	1	0	0	1
Iran	1	0	0	1
Kosovo	1	0	0	1
Thailand	1	0	0	1
ROC	0	1	1	2

in the final to take the gold. Mexico beat Turkey 6-2 in the bronze medal match at Yumenoshima Park Archery Field. “I dreamed about the gold medal and good results,” Kim said. “Our coach told us not to lose focus after we lost the first set.” South Korea have dominated the sport since it returned to the Olympics after more than 50 years in 1972, with now 24 golds from 41 events contested.

Historic third sabre gold for Hungary's Szilagy
 Hungary's Aron Szilagy became the first male fencer to win three individual Olympic golds in the same event when he topped the sabre competition at the Tokyo Games on Saturday.



Gold medalist Hungary's Aron Szilagy celebrates during the medal ceremony for the men's sabre individual at the Makuhari Messe Hall in Chiba City, Chiba Prefecture, Japan, on Saturday. (AFP)

Szilagy, 31, beat Italian Luigi Samele 15-7 in the final to add gold to those from London 2012 and Rio 2016.

On the women's side Italian Valentina Vezzali had won three foil golds 2000, 2004 and 2008.

“It is really hard to believe that I became a three-time Olympic champion. It is amazing, I can't even tell you my feelings, but I am pretty much overwhelmed,” the winner said.

The day's other gold, in women's epee, went to China's Sun Yiwen who edged Ana Maria Popescu of Romania 11-10 to top the podium for the first time after team silver and individual bronze in 2016.

“I am very happy, after waiting five years I finally got the gold medal,” Sun said.

Lighting Olympic cauldron greatest honour: Osaka



Japanese tennis player Naomi Osaka poses after lighting the Olympic Cauldron with the Olympic flame during the opening ceremony of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, at the Olympic Stadium, in Tokyo, on Friday. (AFP)

nounced on short notice that her first round match against China's Zheng Saisai would be moved to Sunday.

It turned out that the Japanese star was chosen for the biggest honour of completing the torch relay, and while the stadium was empty billions watched her via television as she lit the cauldron.

“Undoubtedly the greatest athletic achievement and honour I will ever have in my life,” Osaka said later on Instagram.

“I have no words to describe the feelings I have right now but I do know I am currently filled with gratefulness and thankfulness.” World number two Osaka is returning to tennis at her home Games after withdrawing from the French Open and not playing Wimbledon and stating mental health problems.

Osaka was born in Japan but moved to the United States at the age of three. Her mother is Japanese and her father from Haiti.

“The most important thing was to deliver a message of diversity and inclusion,” opening ceremony executive producer Takayuki Hioki said.

“In the end we decided on her because she is a great athlete and she has been delivering a variety of messages so we thought she was the best person to be the final torchbearer. It was a decision that the whole organizing committee came to.”

NAOMI Osaka was supposed to have played the first tennis match of the Tokyo Olympics on centre court on Saturday but the match was pushed back because she was chosen for “the greatest honour I will ever have”: lighting the Olympic cauldron.

Speculation that the 23-year-old winner of four grand slam titles would have a role in the opening ceremony started as soon as it was an-

Tala Abujbara aims for classification



Qatar's woman rower Tala Abujbara who was in action on Saturday for a second consecutive day finished third in women's single sculls (repechages) with a time of 8:16.88 at the Sea Forest Waterway in Tokyo. She failed to qualify for the quarter-finals but will be in action on Sunday in the Semi-final E/F, which is a classification race. Meanwhile, Qatar's Ayoub Al Idrisi will make history on Sunday by becoming the first Qatari judoka to feature in Olympics. The judo competition will be held at Nippon Budokan Complex and Al Idrisi will compete in the U-66kg category.



Medvedev hits out at changeover times and Djokovic coasts through



Syria's 12-year-old Henda Zaza in action against Austria's Liu Jia during their women's singles preliminary round table tennis match at the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium on Saturday. (AFP)

Youngest athlete goes out in a loss

NYT
TOKYO

AFTER the final point, after all that she had been through, Henda Zaza, the youngest Olympian at the Tokyo Games, shed a tear.

Reaching the Olympics is no small feat, let alone at age 12 and from war-torn Syria, where finding a safe place to train with uninterrupted electricity was a challenge.

But Zaza's Olympic appearance was short-lived. She lost Saturday in straight sets (4-11, 9-11, 3-11, 5-11) to Liu Jia of Austria in the opening round of the women's singles table tennis tournament. Afterward, Liu, 39, walked over to Zaza and offered a hug.

"I had maternal feelings," said Liu, who has a 10-year-old daughter. "It was less about the sport side of this game and more the human side."

At 12 years and 204 days, Zaza became the youngest table tennis player ever to compete in the Olympics, according to the Tokyo Games. She was the youngest Olympian in any sport since 1992, when Judit Kiss of Hungary, then 12, competed in swimming, and 11-year-old Carlos Font of Spain participated in rowing.

Although Zaza had hoped for a better showing, the loss capped a whirlwind trip. The night before her match, she was a flag bearer for Syria at the opening ceremony. A late night, plus the lingering six-hour jet lag, meant that she barely slept — not great preparation against Liu, who is making her sixth Olympic appearance.

"I was hoping for a winning match and for better play, but it's a tough opponent so it's a good lesson for me, especially with the first Olympics," Zaza said through an interpreter. "I will work on it to get a better result next time, hopefully."

Still, with her long hair bouncing as she moved around the table, Zaza showed ability that impressed her seasoned opponent. "I had to remind myself not to underestimate her," Liu said. She called Zaza "a great talent" with good rhythm and instincts who simply needed more experience.

Zaza began playing table tennis at 5, following in the footsteps of an older brother. A local coach, Adham Al-jamaan, spotted her and took her under his wing.

For most of Zaza's life, Syria has been locked in a civil war. She practiced in a place with old tables, a concrete floor and frequent power outages, according to the International Table Tennis Federation's publication.

At 11, Zaza qualified for the Tokyo Games by defeating 42-year-old Mariana Sahakian of Lebanon in the Western Asia Olympic qualification tournament in Jordan last year. The Chinese Olympic Committee invited Zaza to train in China, a table tennis powerhouse, once coronavirus pandemic restrictions were lifted, she said.

"For the last five years, I've been through many different experiences, especially with the war happening around the country, with the postponement, with the funding for the Olympics," Zaza said.

"It was very tough. But I had to fight for it."

DPA
BERLIN

DANIIL Medvedev says it is a "joke" that players do not have longer at changeovers but will not "cry about the heat" after coming through his Tokyo 2020 opener, while Novak Djokovic started at a canter as he looks to add the next step of a Golden Slam.

Representing the Russian Olympic Committee, Medvedev appeared fatigued at times in his 6-4, 7-6 (10-8) triumph over Kazakhstan's Alexander Bublik at the Ariake Tennis Park.

The conditions in the Japanese capital were sweltering on Saturday but Novak Djokovic was able to keep his cool in coasting to a 6-2, 6-2 win against Hugo Dellien.

Medvedev, who saved three of four break points and now has a 3-0 head-to-head record over Bublik, was pretty pointed about what he feels should be done about the heat.

"Like they do in Mexico, the matches maybe should start at six (pm) because the heat actually gets much, much lighter. We all try to practise at six," said Olympics debutant



Russia's Daniil Medvedev returns a shot to Kazakhstan's Alexander Bublik during their men's singles first round tennis match at the Ariake Tennis Park in Tokyo on Saturday. (AFP)

Medvedev, who next plays India's Sumit Nagal.

"The fact that we have only one minute between changeovers is a joke.

If you ask, let's say 200 tennis players that are here, I think 195 will tell you that one minute is a joke. It should be 1:30.

"But you have to play,

that's the Olympics, you go for the medal.

You're not here to cry about the heat. It was really tough for both of us. We talked about this after the match on the court. It was unbelievably hot. But you need to get through it."

Since winning bronze in Beijing 13 years ago, Djokovic

has not had the best of luck at the Olympics — losing in 2012 and 2016 to Juan Martin del Potro on both occasions.

But with a host of big hitters from the ATP absent — including Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal — Djokovic is the overwhelming favourite in Tokyo.

Only Steffi Graf in 1988



Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns a shot to Bolivia's Hugo Dellien during their Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games men's singles first round tennis match on Saturday. (AFP)

from either the WTA or ATP Tour has ever completed a sweep of all four slams and an Olympic gold in a calendar year, and Djokovic needs Olympic gold and victory at the US Open to match the feat.

He needed just 61 minutes to beat Dellien of Bolivia but also found life hard in the heat.

"Humidity is brutal, be-

cause it's very hot and also very humid, so the hard courts absorb the heat, and it stays trapped in there," he said.

"Maybe other days there was a bit more wind, which helped refresh and cool down, but not much today, so it was challenging definitely, but I'm pleased to overcome the first hurdle."

Mirabai Chanu opens India's tally with a silver

ANI
TOKYO

INDIA'S ace weightlifter Saikhom Mirabai Chanu opened India's medals tally on Saturday as she bagged a silver in the Women's 49kg category at Tokyo International Forum on Saturday.

Chanu lifted a total of 202 kg (87kg in snatch and 115kg in clean and jerk) during her four successful attempts across the competition.

China's Zhihui Hou bagged gold with a total of 210kg and created a new Olympic Record while Indonesia's Windy Cantika Aisah grabbed bronze with a total of 194kg. With this monumental silver medal, Chanu has become the second Indian weightlifter to win an Olympic medal after Karnam Malleswari bagged bronze in the 69kg category at the



India's Chanu Saikhom Mirabai competes in the women's 49kg weightlifting competition during the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games at the Tokyo International Forum in Tokyo on Saturday. (AFP)

2000 Sydney Games when the weightlifting arena was opened to women for the first time.

"My dream of winning the

medal has been achieved. I learned after my defeat in the Rio Olympics, changed my technique, and worked hard," said Chanu later in a virtual

press conference. "My win will change things for sure as in weightlifting not many girls participate. After this, I want every girl to take weightlifting as a sport. In further tournaments, I want there should be maximum participation from the girls. I feel now more girls will take up the sport of weightlifting," she added.

Mirabai got off to a flying start after she completed her lift of 84 kg in the first attempt in snatch. She then proceeded to complete the 87kg weightlift with ease but failed to complete the 89kg lift in her last attempt.

USA's Jourdan Elizabeth Delacruz posed the only challenge for the Indian weightlifter for 2nd place in the first half of the competition. Delacruz tragically missed equalling her personal best of 89kg — which should have placed her in sec-

ond spot — when judges overruled her attempt.

Current World record holder Zhihui Hou in snatch as expected created a new Olympic Record with 92kg attempt and then improved on it by completing 94kg lift in the last attempt.

In clean and jerk, the 26-year-old Indian came all guns blazing as she completed her first attempt of 110kg with ease and improved it later by lifting 115 kg.

In the team events, carrying the hopes of an entire nation to end the 41-year medal drought at the Olympic Games, the Indian men's Hockey team got off to a rollicking start in their group stage campaign with a strong 3-2 win against New Zealand in a match that went down to the wire.

Also, India tennis player

Sumit Nagal progressed to the second round of the men's singles. Nagal outclassed Uzbekistan's Denis Istomin 6-4, 6-7, 6-4 in the men's singles first round on Saturday.

In badminton, the men's doubles pair of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy also won their opening Group Stage match.

In table tennis, star player Manika Batra cruised past Britain's Tin-Tin Ho into the next round in the women's singles event.

However, India's mixed doubles table tennis pair of Achanta Sharath Kamal and Manika failed to qualify for the next round after suffering a heavy 0-4 defeat.

Saurabh Chaudhary also failed to rise to the challenge in the finals of the 10m air rifle event where he finished 7th.

Cover star, gymnastic icon, pioneer: The Biles show begins in Tokyo



Whether it's opponents, fans or media, no one can look away from gymnast star Simone Biles who is set to open a potentially extraordinary Olympic campaign in Tokyo on Sunday.

DPA
TOKYO

UNITED States gymnast Simone Biles is in such dominant form that her German rivals do not even seek to compare themselves to her at the Tokyo Games.

"She is also a pioneer," said Germany's Elisabeth Seitz.

"We're also impressed with what she does and how she does it.

"I personally am really looking forward to seeing her

at the Olympic Games." Biles, 24, already has a cupboard full of medals and trophies from world championships and the 2016 Rio Games where she took four gold and a bronze.

Since then she has improved even further and on Sunday will return to the biggest stage for team event qualifying in the Ariake Gymnastics Centre. Even in an empty arena because of the coronavirus pandemic, she is expected to create an electrify-



US gymnast Simone Biles practices her floor exercise routine during a training session at the Ariake Gymnastics Centre in Tokyo, ahead of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. (AFP)

ing atmosphere.

Biles appeared on the cover of both Health Magazine and the Wall Street Journal in the build-up to Tokyo and Twitter has created an emoji in her honour — a gymnast goat, representing the Great-

est Of All Time.

Only those truly groundbreaking can transcend their sport in the manner of Biles, who returned at the end of May after a 587-day break from competition with a Yurchenko and double back-

ward somersault never before landed by a woman.

"I think that Simone is no yardstick for us," said Germany's 2017 world champion on the balance beam, Pauline Schaefer.

"What she does is even a

bit unhumane in my opinion. She definitely has my greatest respect."

Biles stands only 1.42 metres tall yet the gymnastic world looks up to her.

"An exceptional gymnast, who has above all made the sport even more prominent," said Seitz.

"She is simply a star in our sport."

In 2018, Biles made public that had been sexually abused by former team doctor Larry Nassar. Already a star, she had "no more fear about telling my story."

Biles is the only still active athlete from that scandal from the training centre of Bela and Martha Karolyi but matter is "nowhere near over," she recently told 60 Minutes in an interview.

There are too many unanswered questions. "Who knew what when?" she wonders.

That will be determined long after Tokyo when Biles will surely have added to her medal collection — the peak of which could be on Thursday, by becoming the first woman since Vera Caslavskaja in 1968 to win consecutive all-around Olympic titles.



Thousand Oaks won the Rich Energy Two Drinks One Taste Novice Stakes at Newmarket racecourse in UK, on Friday. (Pic: John Hoy)

Qatar Racing Limited's Thousand Oaks off the mark at Newmarket

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK

THREE-YEAR-OLD filly Thousand Oaks (IRE) (Kingman x Roheryn) carried the colours of Qatar Racing Limited to success when taking the Rich Energy Two Drinks One Taste Novice Stakes, a Class 3 race for three and four-year-olds at Newmarket (July) racecourse, UK, on Friday.

Following on from two third-placed efforts at Kempton and Haydock respectively, Thousand Oaks was having her third racecourse start and scored in fine style for trainers John and Thady Gosden. She was ridden to victory by Cieren Fallon, retained rider to Qatar Racing Limited.

Settled behind the early leader Auriferous (IRE) (Golden Horn x Sequester) throughout the early stages of the 2400-metre contest, Thousand Oaks travelled well under Fallon. She moved closer to the leader when 800 metres from home and started

to press the leader. Inside the final 400 metres, Thousand Oaks and Auriferous began to pull away from the field.

Thousand Oaks took the lead from Auriferous inside the 200 metres and despite hanging left, galloped clear to a four and a half-length success at the line.

The Simon & Ed Crisford-trained and Pat Dobbs-ridden Line Of Decent (IRE) (Nathaniel x Joys Of Spring) closed late on to snatch second from Auriferous who weakened and finished further four lengths behind in third for trainer Andrew Balding and jockey Jamie Spencer.

Bred by The Roheryn Partnership, Thousand Oaks is by the leading Juddmonte stallion Kingman (Invincible Spirit) and is out of Listed winner Roheryn (Galileo), who was also placed four times at Group level. The second dam, La Chunga (More Than Ready), was a Group Three winner at both two and three.



Wahraan scored a dominant win in the 0-95 Handicap at Newmarket's July course on Saturday. (Pic: John Hoy)

Wahraan eases to a second successive victory for Al Shaqab Racing

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK

OWNED-AND-BRED by Al Shaqab Racing, Wahraan (FR) (Le Havre x Al Jassasiyah) was last seen at Pontefract on July 6th when he broke his maiden in a 2,000 metre maiden race on his 5th start. He followed up with a convincing and rather dominant 5½-length win in the 0-95 Handicap for three-year-olds and older for trainer Sir Michael Stoute at Newmarket's July course on Saturday.

The three-year-old colt, who was partnered by jockey Richard Kingscote, sat in last position in the 4-runner race with the six-year-old Big Kitten (USA) (Kitten's Joy x Queen Martha) leading the proceedings at a steady pace. As they came to the 600-metre marker, the runners picked up and Big Kitten tried vainly to

defend his lead from a strong challenge from Wahraan, who put the race to bed.

The Al Shaqab Racing's colt ran home comfortably on the fast ground, proving his credentials as an interesting progressive element for his owner and breeder. Big Kitten finished second for trainer Mark Johnston and jockey Joe Fanning, a further half length ahead of the George Boughey-trained and Aled Beech-ridden Songkran (IRE) (Slade Power x Choose Me).

Wahraan is by the French sire Le Havre. His dam, Al Jassasiyah, has already produced a winner with Mashaal, a filly by Dubawi in training with André Fabre. Al Jassasiyah is a granddaughter of the Group 1 scorer and blue hen Park express, dam of Derby hero and sire New Approach.

Formula One

'Verstappen-Hamilton crash cost Red Bull \$1.8mn'

BERLIN: Christian Horner says Max Verstappen's Silverstone crash with Lewis Hamilton has cost Red Bull around \$1.8 million, an outlay that will have "massive ramifications" for the team. Verstappen was taken to hospital for checks after being left badly wounded by his high-speed collision with title rival Hamilton at the British Grand Prix last weekend. Dutchman Verstappen spun into the barriers following a dramatic crash on the first lap at Copse corner. Hamilton went on to win on home soil and reduce Verstappen's championship lead to only eight points despite being given a 10-second penalty for being "predominantly to blame" for the incident. Verstappen accused the Brit of being "disrespectful and unsportsmanlike", while Red Bull team principal Horner felt Hamilton was guilty of "dirty driving". (DPA)

Attiyah clinches late win for Overdrive at Baja Spain Aragon

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK TERUEL (SPAIN)

OVERDRIVE Racing's Nasser Saleh Al Attiyah and Matthieu Baumel returned to cross-country rallying action for the first time since the Andalucia Rally in mid-May and snatched a late victory in the three-stage Baja Spain Aragón, round five of the FIA World Cup for Cross-Country Bajas, on Saturday.

Leading by 64 seconds heading into the final stage, Attiyah lost time to French driver Sébastien Loeb during the early kilometres of the selective section and looked to be heading for second place until his rival dropped around 14 minutes near the finish with power steering issues and slipped to seventh overall.

"It was a difficult last stage for everybody but I am quite happy to win this race," said Attiyah, who suffered tyre wear on the abrasive surfaces in the high temperatures and duly recorded his fourth Spanish Baja success (2008, 2016 and 2017) and his third with Toyota. "Today everybody had problems. It was not easy at all. The last 40km we had serious tyre wear issues."

The Belgian Overdrive team ran four Toyota Hiluxes in the punishing summer heat of the Aragón region of Spain for Attiyah, Saudi Arabia's Yazeed Al Rajhi, Dutchman Erik van Loon and Portugal's Tiago Reis, with another customer car for Spaniard Isidre Esteve.

Al Rajhi and Michael Orr had rekindled their working partnership on the early stages of the Silk Way Rally at the start of the month before the team withdrew from the shortened event. That decision enabled Orr to give a back injury more time to heal and the Ulsterman guided the Saudi to third overall and the final



Overdrive Racing's Nasser Al Attiyah in action in his Toyota Hilux during the Baja Aragon in Spain.



Nasser Al Attiyah (right) during the Baja Aragon.

podium slot at the finish of the Spanish event in Teruel. The points' haul also lifted Al Rajhi closer to Baja series leader Yasir Seaidan in the title race.

The Portuguese duo of Tiago Reis and Valter Cardoso crewed a fourth Overdrive Toyota. They earned fourth and fifth quickest times on the last two stages on the way to an excellent fourth place.

Erik van Loon began the Baja in sixth place in the FIA World Cup for Cross-Country Bajas Drivers' Championship and he and French co-driver Sébastien Delaunay reached the finish in a similar position to boost the Dutchman's points tally behind points' leader Seaidan.

Former Dakar motorcyclist Isidre Esteve teamed up

with Txema Villalobos to drive a customer Overdrive Hilux. He reached the finish in ninth position. Portugal's João Ferreira also drove an Overdrive-built Hilux and finished 11th with co-driver David Monteiro.

Nine-time World Rally Champion Sébastien Loeb pipped Al-Attiyah by a mere one second to the fastest time

on the opening selective section of 180km on Friday after carding the fastest time of 2hr 20min 12sec.

"It was a good first stage, no real problems, but it was not easy for the rear tyres," said Al-Attiyah. "We were the first car all the way. It is not easy to open the road."

Al Rajhi came home in fourth place behind Sweden's Mattias Ekström. Reis, Van Loon and Esteve were classified in seventh, ninth and 10th.

The second leg was divided into two selective sections of 112.91km and 208.36km with cars tackling the opener from 07.40hrs before the heat of the morning sun gained its strength.

Attiyah set the fastest time to move into an outright lead of 1min 04sec over Loeb, who set the third quickest time behind Orlando Terranova. "It was a good stage and I am quite happy to have the lead," said the Qatari.

"There was a lot of dust and we could not pass Seb."

Reis, Al Rajhi and Van Loon completed the shorter opener in fourth, seventh and 11th places to hold fourth, fifth and eighth in the general classification. Esteve was 19th and held 10th.

But Loeb managed to attack from the front in the third and final stage and the Frenchman held off Attiyah until the closing kilometres when he lost vital minutes with the power steering woes and slipped out of contention for the win.

Attiyah duly recorded the fastest time and was able to seal victory by the margin of 4min 40sec from Ekström. The third and fifth quickest times lifted Al Rajhi and Reis into third and fourth overall.

The FIA World Cup for Cross-Country Bajas resumes in Hungary at the start of August.

Action from the gruelling Baja Spain Aragón, round five of the FIA World Cup for Cross-Country Bajas, on Saturday.

2021 BAJA SPAIN ARAGÓN

Result (unofficial @ 17.45hrs)

1.	Nasser Saleh AlAttiyah (QAT)/Michael Orr (GBR) Toyota Hilux Overdrive	6hr 32min 44sec
2.	Mattias Ekström (SWE)/Emil Bergkvist (SWE) MINI A14 Racing	6hr 37min 24sec
3.	Yazeed Al Rajhi (SAU)/Michael Orr (GBR) Toyota Hilux Overdrive	6hr 38min 59sec
4.	Tiago Reis (PRT)/Valter Cardoso (PRT) Toyota Hilux Overdrive	6hr 39min 34sec
5.	Joan Roma (ESP)/Alex Haro (ESP) Prodrive Hunter	6hr 39min 52sec
6.	Erik van Loon (NLD)/Sébastien Delaunay (FRA) Toyota Hilux Overdrive	6hr 44min 25sec
7.	Sébastien Loeb (FRA)/Fabian Lurquin (BEL) Prodrive Hunter	6hr 44min 36sec
8.	João Ramos (PRT)/Filipe Palmeiro (PRT) Toyota Hilux	6hr 46min 57sec
9.	Isidre Esteve (ESP)/Txema Villalobos (ESP) Toyota Hilux	6hr 52min 05sec
10.	Alejandro Martins (PRT)/J Marques (PRT) MINI John Cooper Works Rally	6hr 53min 16sec
11.	João Ferreira (PRT)/David Monteiro (PRT) Toyota Hilux	6hr 57min 17sec
12.	Pedro Dias (PRT)/Jose Eduardo Sa (PRT) Ford EXR 5 Proto	6hr 58min 01sec
13.	Miroslav Zapletal (CZE)/Marek Szykora (SVK) Ford F-150 Evo	7hr 00min 36sec, etc

Mohammed Hanzab re-elected SIGA Vice-Chairman

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK GENEVA

MOHAMMED Hanzab, Founder and Chairman of the International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS), has been re-elected Vice Chairman of the Sport Integrity Global Alliance (SIGA) during the extraordinary electoral General Assembly held digitally.

Thirteen of the 14 member organisations taking part in the extraordinary electoral General Assembly voted for Hanzab to be re-elected as the Vice-Chairman of the SIGA Global Council for the second term, following his initial election in 2018.

Hanzab's re-election affirms his outstanding contribution in the progression and efforts of SIGA since its inception in 2017 in leading the way for sport integrity worldwide.

Franco Frattini, Vice President of the Italian Council of State, and the Italian magistrate, was also re-elected as



Mohammed Hanzab, Founder & Chairman International Centre for Sport Security (ICSS).

Chair of the of the SIGA Global Council by a unanimous vote of the 14 member organisations taking part in the extraordinary electoral General Assembly.

Densign White, CEO of the International Mixed Martial Arts Federation (IMMAF), was also re-elected as vice-chair, with 12 votes, and Alison Giordano, Vice-President, Global Consumer Marketing & Sponsorships at Mastercard International, who also received 13 votes, has been appointed vice-chair and was

Hanzab's re-election recognises his outstanding contribution in the progression and efforts of SIGA since its inception in 2017

elected to the Council for the first time representing global business Eddie Marshbaum, Director of Sports Integrity at Quest (reelection) and João Paulo Almeida, Director General of the National Olympic Committee of Portugal (COP) concluded the list of the Council members elected.

All will serve four-year terms through to 2025 in the independent international body aimed at providing global leadership, promotion of good governance and safeguarding the integrity of sport through a set of universal standards.

Mohammed Hanzab, SIGA Vice-Chair, said: "I am very proud of this vote of confidence and trust. For me, this is even more important considering

that there is more work ahead of us to bring about the necessary reforms. I look forward to working with all members of the SIGA Global Council during the next four years to consolidate our previous and ongoing efforts to protect the integrity and good governance in sport."

Franco Frattini, SIGA Council Chair, said: "Once again we congratulate Mohammed Hanzab on his re-election, and express the wish that his second term will be as successful as the first.

COVID-19 crisis influenced the first term, but SIGA resisted and has always been able to follow its mission, flagging corruption and improving the awareness-raising for integrity in sports.

Diversity and inclusion are the keywords for the following term, as SIGA will build on the role of women in sport, on the opportunity to invest in the younger generations, and avoid leaving behind those who have disabilities."

Solskjaer signs new Manchester United deal

LONDON: Manchester United have put their faith in manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer by handing him a new three-year contract. The Norwegian, who took over from Jose Mourinho in 2018, will stay at Old Trafford until at least 2024, with the option of an extra year. It is a big statement from United, who have also shown backing in the transfer market with the 73 million pound (100 million dollars) signing of Jadon Sancho on Friday. Solskjaer delivered a second-placed finish in the Premier League last season, briefly challenging runaway leaders Manchester City, while also losing the Europa League final to Villarreal, but has yet to deliver any silverware in his two and a half seasons in charge. He said on the club's official website Saturday: "I am delighted to have signed this new contract. It is an exciting time for Manchester United, we have built a squad with players that are hungry for success." (DPA)