



HE Sheikh Al Qaqa bin Hamad Al Thani with the connection of Scherzo - the winner of HE Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani Rifle for Thoroughbreds (Class 2) - at the Al Rayyan Racecourse on Saturday.



Jockey Andrea Atzeni guides Scherzo to HE Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani Rifle for Thoroughbreds (Class 2) victory in QREC's 31st Race Meeting at the Al Rayyan Racecourse on Saturday.

Al Wasmiyah Farm's Scherzo excels to corner Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani Rifle glory

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
 DOHA

ON a fine day at the Al Rayyan racecourse on Saturday, Scherzo made it a hat-trick of HE Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani Rifle victories for Al Wasmiyah Farm after jockey Andrea Atzeni guided the four-year-old to a spectacular photo-finish win at the Qatar Racing and Equestrian Club's (QREC) 31st Race Meeting.

Georges Mikhalides-trained bay colt made a slow start to the prestigious Thoroughbreds (Class 2) race as In The Night and Semper Augustus exchanged early leads. But Scherzo picked up the pace when it mattered in the 2200m feature race, with Bolthole, ridden by Ronan Thomas going neck-to-neck.

That set up a thrilling finish to the \$100,000 race with Scherzo pipping Alban Elie De Mieulle-trained Bolthole by a head to clinch the race. In The Night, which had Tomas Lukasek in the saddle, had to settle for third place. Soufiane Saadi-ridden Semper Augustus came fourth.

The HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani Rifle Day is held under the patronage of Qatar Olympic Committee President HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani.

It was a festive atmosphere at the Al Rayyan Racecourse as the racing connoisseurs gathered for a bumper 10-race card with various entertainment activities held throughout the day.

Earlier, Wathnan Racing's Abbas won the Grade 3 HE Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani Trophy for 4yo+ Purebred Arabians over 2200m by four lengths, completing a double on the day for trainer Alban de Mieulle and jockey Mickael Barzalona.

HE Sheikh Al Qaqa bin Hamad Al Thani crowned the winners of the last two races of meeting.

Barzalona had earlier steered Bucanero to win in HE Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani Trophy for 4YO Purebred Arabians over 1750m by two-and-a-quarter length in



Al Shaqab's winning team of Al Wakrah after it claimed HE Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani winning the Purebred Arabians' race. The winners were crowned by Sheikh Abdulaziz bin Thani bin Khalid Al Thani, CEO, Qatar Media Corporation, along with Bader Al Darwish, Acting CEO, QREC, and QREC's Racing Manager Abdulla Rashid Al Kubaisi.



Ronan Thomas guides Wathnan Racing's Equinoxe to HE Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani Trophy for 4YO+ Local Thoroughbreds victory.

eighth race of the day.

Meanwhile, Al Shaqab Racing's Al Wakrah won the HE Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani Trophy for 4YO+ Purebred Arabians over 1750m, having drawn four lengths clear under jockey Faleh Bughanaim, while Mohamed Abdulhadi Al Hajri's Stylish Performer won the HE Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani Trophy for trainer Hamad Al Jehani, having prevailed in the sixth race by a length and a quarter under jockey Hugo Besnier.

The HE Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani Trophy for 4YO+ Local Thoroughbreds saw Wathnan Racing's Equinoxe - trained by De Mieulle - clinching the title under Thomas, who claimed a double.

Earlier in the day, Thomas led Zuhair Mohsen-trained Al Ehdashari to Local Purebred Arabian Novice Cup (Far Bend) victory.

Classic Order completed the double for trainer Mohsen after winning the HE Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani Trophy for 3YO Thoroughbreds over 1500 by two lengths and a quarter.

Saadi rode the Hamad Bin Abdulrahman Bin Hamad Al Attiya-owned gelding to complete his double having guided Concorde to victory in Local Purebred Arabian Premium Maiden Cup, the first race yesterday.

Ridden by Maxime Guyon, Abdulatif Hussain Al Emadi's Come Quick also notched up a

victory winning the HE Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani Trophy, a Thoroughbred Sprint for 3YO+ over 1200m.

QREC 31st Race Meeting - HE Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani Rifle Day
 (Horse, Trainer, Jockey)

1 - HE Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani Rifle - Thoroughbreds (Class 2) (Far Bend)
 Scherzo, Georges Mikhalides, Andrea Atzeni

2 - HE Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani Trophy (Gr3 Pa) - Purebred Arabians (Far Bend)
 Abbas, Alban Elie De Mieulle, Mickael Barzalona

3 - HE Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani Trophy - 4yo Purebred Arabians (Far Bend)
 Bucanero, Mohammed Ghazali, Mickael Barzalona

4 - HE Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani Trophy - Purebred Arabians (Far Bend)
 Al Wakrah, Eric Lemartinel, Faleh Bughanaim

5 - HE Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani Trophy - Thoroughbred Open Race (Class 2) (Far Bend)
 Stylish Performer, Hamad Al Jehani, Hugo Besnier

6 - HE Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani Trophy - Local Thoroughbreds (Far Bend)
 Equinoxe, Alban Elie De Mieulle, Ronan Thomas

7 - HE Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani Trophy - 3yo Thorough-



Jockey Faleh Bughanaim rides Al Wakrah to HE Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani Trophy - Purebred Arabians (Far Bend) victory.



Mickael Barzalona's guides Wathnan Racing's Abbas to win the Grade 3 HE Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani Trophy for 4yo+ Purebred Arabians.



Spectators enjoying the racing action at Al Rayyan Racecourse on Saturday.

8 - HE Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Al Thani Trophy - Thoroughbred Sprint (Class 2) (Far Bend)
 Come Quick, Bader Al Balushi, Maxime Guyon

9 - Local Purebred Arabian Novice Cup (Far Bend)
 Al Ehdashari, Zuhair Mohsen, Ronan Thomas

10 - Local Purebred Arabian Premium Maiden Cup (Far Bend)
 Concorde, Mohammed Nasser Al-Naimi, Soufiane Saadi.

World chess champ Carlsen eager to be back in Doha for Qatar Masters 2023

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
 DOHA

THE Qatar Masters Chess will be back on the calendar in 2023 after a break of eight years. With an \$110,000 prize fund, it will likely be one of the strongest open tournaments of the year with reigning five-time world champion Magnus Carlsen leading the field.

An eager defending champion Carlsen said, "I am very happy to play in the Qatar Masters again. This tournament

is very important. All means of comfort are available to all the participants, thanks to the wonderful support provided by the organisers.

"The atmosphere will certainly be fine and the participation is in large numbers and the competitions will be strong. I can't wait for the start of the tournament and play in it."

Organised by the Qatar Chess Federation (QCF) under the auspices of the International Chess Federation (FIDE), the tournament will take place



World chess champion Magnus Carlsen with Qatar Chess Federation President Mohamed Al Mudahka.

for the third time from October 10-20.

The Qatar Masters Open was first held in 2014 and won by Chinese Grandmaster Yu Yangyi, while Norwegian Carlsen defeated Yangyi in a play-off to win the next edition in 2015. There will be nine rounds with the winner taking home \$25,000.

QCF President Mohamed Al Mudahka said that the Qatar Masters is considered one of the most competitive open tournaments in the world as

the line-up includes some of the best players in the world. "Everyone witnessed the great success of Qatar in organising the 2022 World Cup for the first time in the Arab region and the Middle East.

"So other sports will certainly follow the same path of success, and we are discussing various projects besides the Qatar Masters tournament. But for me now this is an extremely important event," said Al Mudahka, who is also International Director of FIDE.

Ancelotti squashes Camavinga exit talk, says 'he's untouchable'

DPA
BERLIN

CARLO Ancelotti emphatically ruled out the possibility of Eduardo Camavinga leaving Real Madrid following links with Arsenal and Chelsea.

The 20-year-old midfielder joined Los Blancos in August 2021 in a reported Euros 31 million (\$33.7 million) deal after emerging as one of Europe's most promising young players at Rennes. He unsurprisingly took ownership of a rotation role during his first season, making 13 La Liga starts from 26 appearances.

But the France interna-

tional has struggled to kick on this term, with only five of his 16 league outings coming as a starter.

His future was then called into question on Friday when speculation surfaced suggesting Arsenal were particularly keen on a loan move, while big-spending Chelsea have been credited with an interest.

Camavinga's agent insisted on Saturday that the player is happy in Madrid, and Ancelotti looked to firmly put an end to the rumours. "Eduardo is untouchable, like [Luka] Modric and [Toni] Kroos," the Italian told reporters ahead of Sunday's trip to Athletic Bilbao.



Real Madrid's midfielder Eduardo Camavinga during the Spanish Super Cup final match against FC Barcelona at the King Fahd International Stadium in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, recently. (AFP)

Camavinga is not the only Madrid player who has had to contend with a degree of uncertainty around his future.

Nacho Fernandez, Dani Ceballos and Marco Asensio are among the players who have entered the final six months of their contracts.

Nevertheless, Ancelotti is convinced the lack of certainty is not an issue. "They could start the game, or be decisive in the game," he added. "You have to evaluate. From what I see, I see very motivated players, and they show it. We have to see what happens. Their contracts are running down and they show that they have motiva-

tion, desire, and concentration. The fact that their contract ends does not affect them at all." Ancelotti also moved to draw a line under the recent controversy around Aurelien Tchouameni.

The Frenchman, who has been injured for two weeks, was not in attendance for the midweek Copa del Rey win over Villarreal because he went to watch the NBA game in Paris between the Detroit Pistons and Chicago Bulls. He apologised on Friday and Ancelotti says the situation is resolved.

Ancelotti said: "He made his apology public. He was wrong, but he is a young boy, and the subject has ended with this."

CLOSE FINISH



West Ham United's striker Jarrod Bowen (left) shoots past Everton's goalkeeper Jordan Pickford (right) to score the opening goal of the English Premier League match at the London Stadium, in London, on Saturday. (AFP)

Everton suffer hammer blow with defeat at West Ham

Striker Jarrod Bowen's two goals kept the Toffees in the relegation zone and put manager Frank Lampard's future in jeopardy

PA MEDIA/DPA
LONDON

EVERTON were plunged into further turmoil as their under-fire owners watched their underperforming team slump 2-0 at fellow Premier League strugglers West Ham on Saturday.

Chairman Bill Kenwright and majority shareholder Farhad Moshiri were both in attendance as two goals from Jarrod Bowen kept the Toffees rooted in the relegation zone and left manager Frank Lampard's future in serious jeopardy.

While Everton's fans made their feelings crystal clear again, unfurling banners reading 'Board Full Of Liars' in the away end, their team simply capitulated.

Such is the discontent surrounding the club that Ever-

ton's directors had been advised to stay away from last week's home defeat by Southampton for their own safety.

Thus, Moshiri's appearance at the London Stadium felt hugely significant. It was the first time he had attended an Everton match in almost 18 months, and therefore the first time he had witnessed the team under Lampard.

It may be the last, such was this feeble display which even made West Ham, themselves in a dreadful run of form, look almost competent.

On the pitch two, after a tribute to Hammers co-owner David Gold, who died three weeks ago, two edgy teams played out a horribly cagey encounter.

Everton keeper Jordan Pickford did not help the nerves when he miscontrolled his first touch of the ball, but

Michail Antonio could not take advantage.

Pickford redeemed himself when he made a fine save to tip over a swerving shot from Said Benrahma but West Ham, themselves on a run of seven matches without a win, soon made their dominance count.

In the 33rd minute Emerson Palmieri lifted a high cross into the box and Kurt Zouma flicked it on for Bowen to prod home.

Bowen appeared to be in an offside position but the goal survived a VAR review.

The winger tucked the ball under his shirt in celebration - partner Dani Dyer had announced they were expecting twins the previous evening.

Lampard, meanwhile, would have been having kittens when, nine minutes later, Bowen - who had not previously scored since October - dou-

bled West Ham's lead.

Antonio did brilliantly to skip past the challenge of James Tarkowski on the touchline, leaving him the simple task of pulling the ball back for Bowen to tuck away.

Yet even at 2-0 up West Ham almost allowed their confidence-shorn opponents back in before half-time, but Alex Iwobi's low shot was deflected onto a post.

In the second half Pickford palmed an Emerson drive onto the crossbar, Declan Rice fired across goal and wide and Bowen was denied a hat-trick by a timely Conor Coady challenge.

It mattered little as West Ham comfortably held on, hauling themselves out of the bottom three and giving their under-pressure boss David Moyes some breathing space in the process - while leaving Lampard fearing the worst.

Klopp and Potter take positives from Liverpool's draw with Chelsea

PA MEDIA/DPA
LONDON

JÜRGEN Klopp and Graham Potter looked for the positives after Liverpool and Chelsea cancelled each other out in a drab goalless draw on Saturday.

Neither team boasted good form heading into the Anfield contest and the game served up reflected their current mid-table Premier League status.

Yet with both sides avoiding the consequences of another defeat during their testing runs, the managers accepted a point apiece.

Liverpool boss Klopp, taking charge of his 1000th game in management, said: "I liked the start of the first half and particularly the start of the second half, so that was good and we need to extend these spells."

"We had moments when we played pretty well. For me it is clear, you have to be ready to make little steps and this was a little step. I expect progress and, from the last league game, it was progress, definitely. That is important. I think Arsene Wenger lost his 1000th game 6-0, so I am really happy that didn't happen." The result leaves Liverpool with much work to do get back into the race for a top-four place.

Klopp said: "We can only influence this by winning and we didn't do that."

"But there are a lot of games to play and, if you count all the points, a lot of things are possible. To get there we have to continue with the things we did here and in the last two games I

saw progress." Chelsea thought they had taken a third-minute lead through Kai Havertz but the goal was ruled out for offside following a VAR check and clear-cut chances were few and far between thereafter.

Chelsea manager Potter said: "We were happy with the performance of the team, happy with the energy, the spirit and the discipline we had."

"It's never easy coming here because of Liverpool's quality and Anfield, so we take the point, we accept it, and move forward in a positive way." In terms of his side's Champions League qualification prospects, Potter said: "Rather than worry about what is going to happen in four or five months' time we just have to focus on the next day and the next match. The number of players we have had missing has been into double figures. That would affect any team but I think the team has stuck together through a period of a lot of criticism, pressure and noise."

A bright spot for Chelsea was the performance of new signing Mykhailo Mudryk, who made a lively debut off the bench in the second half.

Potter said: "He was really good. He's only been with us a few days but will get better the more he is with us and the more we understand him, and vice-versa, but promising signs."

"From watching him with Shakhtar and seeing his quality, he is dangerous in one-v-one situations in the final third. He can make things happen and I think he'll get supporters off their feet."



Chelsea's midfielder Mykhailo Mudryk (left) vies for the ball with Liverpool's English defender Trent Alexander-Arnold (right) during the English Premier League match at Anfield in Liverpool on Saturday. (AFP)

Freiburg humbled 6-0 at Wolfsburg, Frankfurt seize second spot

DPA
BERLIN

FREIBURG failed to capitalise on Bayern Munich's slip-up after being hammered 6-0 at Wolfsburg on Saturday, allowing Eintracht Frankfurt to take second spot in the Bundesliga thanks to a 3-0 win over Schalke.

On Friday, champions Bayern could only draw 1-1 at now fifth-placed RB Leipzig as the German top flight returned from its mid-season break.

Third-placed Union Berlin left it late to seal a 3-1 comeback win at home to Hoffenheim, Bochum beat second-bottom Hertha Berlin 3-1 and VfB Stuttgart drew 1-1 with Mainz in Bruno Labbadia's first game back in charge. Cologne entertain Werder Bremen in Saturday's late game.

Wolfsburg stunned Freiburg after Patrick Wimmer

scored in just the second minute and Jonas Wind netted a brace before Yannick Gerhardt, Ridle Baku and Luca Waldschmidt struck, meaning Bayern's lead remains five points.

Freiburg coach Christian Streich told Sky: "We lost 6-0 and had no chances. I can't go deeper into the analysis, I have to watch it again."

Hosts Frankfurt went above now fourth-placed Freiburg on goal difference after superb finishes from Jesper Lindström and Rafael Borré, as well as Aurélio Buta's late goal, in a flattering scoreline against bottom side Schalke.

The unlucky Royal Blues now have the worst away record in Bundesliga history, having not won in 36 games.

Schalke striker Simon Terodde said: "It is simple in football - you have to score when you have so many chances. Frankfurt were ice-cool."



Wolfsburg's Danish forward Jonas Wind celebrates scoring a goal during the German first division Bundesliga football match in Wolfsburg, Germany, on Saturday. (AFP)

Three shots, three goals." On Sunday, seventh-placed Borussia Dortmund host Augsburg and Borussia Mönchengladbach welcome Bayer

Leverkusen. There is also Bundesliga action on Tuesday and Wednesday with matchday 17, which marks the halfway point of the season.

RESULTS

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA
RB Leipzig 1 - 1 Bayern Munich
Union Berlin 3 - 1 Hoffenheim
Eintracht Frankfurt 3 - 0 Schalke 04
Wolfsburg 6 - 0 Freiburg
Bochum 3 - 1 Hertha Berlin
Stuttgart 1 - 1 Mainz

Freiburg coach Christian Streich told Sky: "We lost 6-0 and had no chances. I can't go deeper into the analysis, I have to watch it again."

Saturday's results mean Bayern are officially 'winter champions' again as they will remain top at the mid-point of the campaign whatever happens in the week.

Freiburg got off to an awful start with Wolfsburg's Wimmer storming through their de-

fence to slide home early.

The visitors threatened to equalize but looked off the pace after two months without a competitive game because of the World Cup and extra Bundesliga break.

Their defence was all at sea as Wind reached the ball before hesitant goalkeeper Mark Flekken to nod in the second from close range on 28 minutes.

The Dane scored again before the break when he turned a cross home with his knee as light snow fell across Germany.

Gerhardt extended Wolfsburg's lead in the second half with Wind again involved in the move, with Baku converting a cross at the far post before Waldschmidt's late penalty.

The Wolves moved up to sixth in the table after their fifth league win in a row having recovered from a shaky start to the season under former Bayern coach Niko Kovac.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN



Serbia's Novak Djokovic hits a return against Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov during their men's singles match on day six of the Australian Open in Melbourne on Saturday. Djokovic won 7-6 (9-7), 6-3, 6-4. (AFP)

Djokovic endures pain to beat Dimitrov in straight sets

The title favourite also took timeout after falling at the side of the court

PA MEDIA/DPA
MELBOURNE

NOVAK Djokovic continued to defy a hamstring injury as a straight-sets victory over Grigor Dimitrov sent him into the fourth round of the Australian Open.

The title favourite admitted after needing a medical timeout and dropping a set to French qualifier Enzo Couacaud that he was concerned, and a clash with 27th seed Dimitrov was a much better test of his physical condition. He took another timeout after falling to the floor at the side of the court at the end of the first set but, despite continuing to limp and looking uncomfortable at times, clinched a 7-6 (9-7), 6-3, 6-4 victory.

Djokovic said: "It kind of always starts well and then some movement happens and then it gets worse. Pills kick in, some hot cream and stuff, that works for a little bit, then it doesn't,

then works again. It's really a roller coaster, honestly.

"It requires a lot of energy that is being spent from my side mentally and physically, as well, to deal with the match with my opponent and also with a not-ideal physical state.

"But it is what it is. It's kind of circumstances that you have to accept. I'm just very grateful that I'm actually able to play. The way it looked just before the tournament started, I thought that it wouldn't be possible.

"I'm still here and still holding on. I don't know what awaits, but I do hope and I have faith for the best." It was only two years ago that Djokovic tore an abdominal muscle during the tournament yet still managed to win a ninth title, and none of his rivals will be expecting him to give up the chance of a 10th without an almighty battle.

The strapping on Djokovic's left leg was even more substantial than on previous days but

he settled well into the match, breaking serve in the opening game.

Dimitrov saved three set points at 5-3 and it appeared Djokovic was in full control but he was broken serving for the set and then had to save two set points, one at 5-6 and one in the tie-break.

When he took the set with a volley, the crowd would have expected to see a celebration, but instead Djokovic collapsed to the court looking stony-faced and called for the trainer.

The pain was evident on his face as he had the muscle massaged but, although there were moments when Djokovic did not appear to be moving properly, particularly going forwards, he was able to hare around on the baseline seemingly without too much hindrance.

Having beaten Dimitrov nine times in their previous 10 meetings probably helped. The Bulgarian at times threatened

to make things complicated for Djokovic but, despite going down on the court twice more, he found a way through to set up a clash with Australia's Alex De Minaur.

De Minaur, who had a comfortable afternoon against France's Benjamin Bonzi, is not reading too much into Djokovic's injury, saying: "Ultimately he's one of the best players in the world, and I'm just going to have to take it to him and not shy away from the occasion.

I'm going to make sure to make it as tough as I can." Teenage ninth seed Holger Rune is yet to drop a set and recovered from a heavy fall to beat Ugo Humbert in straight sets, setting up a clash with fifth seed Andrey Rublev.

Three unseeded Americans - Ben Shelton, JJ Wolf and Tommy Paul - also made it through to the last 16, and one of that trio or Roberto Bautista Agut will reach the semi-finals.

Bautista Agut ends Andy Murray's marvellous run

PA MEDIA/DPA
LONDON

Andy Murray threatened another miracle on Margaret Court Arena but fell to a four-set defeat against Roberto Bautista Agut in the third round of the Australian Open.

The Scot was back at the scene of his late-night heroics against Thanasi Kokkinakis, having done his best to recover from the five-hour, 45-minute epic in which he came back from two sets down to claim victory at 4.05am.

Coupled with a near five-hour first-round win against Matteo Berrettini, Murray had spent 10 hours and 34 minutes on court just making it through to the last 32.

To begin with it appeared he would offer little resistance but he willed himself into the match and improbably took the second set before Spaniard Bautista Agut claimed a 6-1, 6-7 (7-9), 6-3, 6-4 victory after three hours and 29 minutes.

Coupled with a loss for Dan Evans to Andrey Rublev earlier, that is now the end of the British challenge in singles for another year at Melbourne Park.

This was the first time at a grand slam since the French Open in 2017, when Murray's hip problems began, that he has been the last British singles player standing.

The contest also came four years after he tearfully revealed the extent of his hip pain and that he was considering retiring ahead of a first-round clash with Bautista Agut in Melbourne.

After Murray battled back from two sets down in a five-set defeat, the tournament played a premature video montage of tributes from fellow players, only for the Scot to insist that

he hoped to be back.

For the first time in six years, he arrived at Melbourne Park feeling genuinely positive about his body and his game, and the victory over Berrettini was probably his best since 2017, but the physical toll was enormous.

Metronomic, stone-faced Spaniard Bautista Agut was surely the last player Murray would have hoped to come across when free points were what he needed the most.

The 35-year-old, who has a stiff gait at the best of times, looked like he could have benefited from a walking stick as he hobbled around the court.

He won just one of the first 15 points before getting on the board in the fourth game and Bautista Agut wrapped up the opening set in only 29 minutes.

Murray was quickly down a break in the second as well but he dug in to keep it at that and, willed on by a crowd featuring plenty of Scottish saltires, began to make some headway.

Unexpectedly, Bautista Agut gave the break back to make it 4-4, and Murray battled grimly to stay on terms, saving a break point in the 11th game with a brilliant backhand pass.

Bautista Agut led 5-2 and 6-4 in the tie-break but Murray again would not let go, getting back on level terms and then forcing two set points, of which he took the second.

Murray stood statuesque soaking up the adulation of the fans who now fully believed they might be witnessing something very special indeed.

But Bautista Agut managed to shut out the noise in the third set, finally breaking through to lead 5-3, and an early break for Murray in the fourth proved a false dawn.

Murray believes schedule 'not good for tennis'

DPA
MELBOURNE

ANDY Murray and Novak Djokovic have called for changes to the Australian Open schedule after several late finishes in Melbourne. Three-time grand slam champion Murray bowed out of the season's opening major on Saturday following a four-set defeat by Roberto Bautista Agut in round three.

The 35-year-old arrived in the clash having already spent over 10 hours on court across his

victories over Matteo Berrettini and Thanasi Kokkinakis.

Murray's 4:05am local time finish in the latter match was the third-latest in tennis history after he recovered from two sets down to deny the home favourite in a thrilling clash that took five hours and 45 minutes to settle.

The Briton subsequently voiced his concerns with scheduling, which tournament director Craig Tiley has no plans to change.

He reiterated those worries after defeat by number

24 seed Bautista Agut, suggesting the Australian Open could follow the trend set by another of the sport's major events.

"I'm sure if you went and spoke to some sleep experts and sports scientists - the people that actually really know what's important for athletes to recover - they would tell you that sleep is the number one thing, that that's the most important thing," he said.

"Finishing matches at four in the morning isn't good for the players. I would also argue it's

not good for the sport, anyone involved in it. I do think there's some quite simple things that can be done to change that.

"I think the US Open went to playing two matches in the day session. That would stop the day matches running into the night session starting too late.

"I think that's quite a simple one that you could look at. You'd still get quality matches during the day. The people who bought ground passes would get to see more of the top players, which would be excellent for them."



Britain's Andy Murray waves as he leaves after losing to Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut during their men's singles match on day six of the Australian Open in Melbourne on Saturday. (AFP)

Fruhvirtova sees off Vondrousova to continue impressive form

PA MEDIA/DPA
LONDON

CZECH teenager Linda Fruhvirtova continued her breakthrough grand slam by defeating countrywoman Marketa Vondrousova to reach the fourth round of the Australian Open.

The 17-year-old is currently heading a crop of young Czech women who are expected to make a big impression over the next decade or so.

Her 15-year-old sister Brenda, who qualified for the main draw here, is also among them along with 18-year-old Linda Noskova and 16-year-old Sara Bejlek.

Linda Fruhvirtova is already a top-100 player having won her first WTA Tour title in Chennai in September, and showed her all-court talents and love of the big stage in a 7-5 2-6 6-3 victory over former French Open finalist Vondrousova.

Both women struggled physically in the final set, with Fruhvirtova taking a medical time-out for what appeared to be a groin problem, but



Linda Fruhvirtova hits a return during their women's singles match on day six of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on Saturday. (AFP)

it was Vondrousova who was the more compromised and the teenager reeled off the last five games.

She has a good chance to go further, with her fourth-round oppo-

nent a fellow unseeded player, albeit a much more experienced one in Croatian Donna Vekic.

There will be a heavyweight contest between fifth seed Aryna Sa-

balenka and 12th seed Belinda Bencic, who came into the fortnight as two of the form players.



I think like there were a few moments when I was about to throw my racket or scream something, and because I held myself really strong in those moments, I feel like it's a little bit more natural right now.

Linda Fruhvirtova

Sabalenka, finally over the serving struggles that saw her hit 56 double faults in four matches here last year, is yet to lose a set this year and eased to a 6-2 6-3 win over 26th seed Elise Mertens.

The Belarusian is normally one of the most demonstrative players on court but has made a vow to be

more boring to keep herself focused and calm.

"I think like there were a few moments when I was about to throw my racket or scream something, and because I held myself really strong in those moments, I feel like it's a little bit more natural right now," she said.

Bencic went into the season buoyed by leading Switzerland to the Billie Jean King Cup title in Glasgow in November and reached the last 16 here for the first time in seven years with a 6-2 7-5 win over Camila Giorgi.

The 25-year-old will hope to use the inside knowledge of her coach Dmitry Tursunov, who helped Sabalenka break through into the top 10.

Tursunov took up the position with Bencic late last season after opting not to continue a trial period with Emma Raducanu.

Former world number one Karolina Pliskova is also through to the fourth round, where she will take on 23rd seed Zhang Shuai.

Not just Olympics gold, but breaking Dakar Rally titles record also Al Attiyah's target

VINAY NAYUDU
DOHA

TRUST Qatari star Nasser Saleh Al Attiyah to excel in whatever he sets his sights on.

Having recently conquered the Saudi Dakar Rally 2023 for his fifth title, the legendary 52-year-old athlete now seeks to emulate compatriot and high jump world champion and Olympic gold medalist Mutaz Essa Barshim.

Al Attiyah, who dabbles both in rallying and shooting has an Olympics bronze but wants to go further. The marksman has been at each of the quadrennial games since 1996 in Atlanta competing in the skeet competition – showing the same gritty resolve he has done in up to ten Dakar Rallies to secure himself a medal of any kind.

The Qatari legend, who is now getting felicitated back home every other day following his latest Dakar triumph, and ahead of the Oman International Rally, said Paris 2024 is his second major goal. "That's my second major goal. I have started preparing for Paris and will continue to get ready for the challenge. This will be my 7th Olympic Games appearance," said Al Attiyah while speaking soon after a felicitation function at Hotel Velero in Lusail.

He, however, stressed that the challenge to be the best in two sports isn't easy. "It's



“Hardwork is a result where I am now. There is no other way to get such achievements but for the hard work and support from my country. I am thankful to Qatar government for all the support I get for my sport. I love what I am doing and I always look to do best for my country. I always dream and work to be the number one to raise the Qatar flag. You have to be strong in the things you know and enjoy it. If you love to do something, do it properly, this is what I am trying to do and getting success.”

Five time Dakar Rally champion and Olympics medalist in shooting – Nasser Saleh Al Attiyah

not easy, but this year we will have a lot of preparation. We will have a two-month training camp in Italy and then we will take part in the Asian Games, Asian Championships and the Arab Championships to continue our practice. Then next year we will focus more for the

Olympic Games,” he explained. Asked about his exploits at the Dakar Rally, Al Attiyah smiled to say, “I love my sport and I always try to be on top.”

He credited his hard work and endurance for the results. “Hardwork is a result where I am now – the winner of five



Nasser Al Attiyah with his 2023 Saudi Arabia Dakar Rally trophy at one his felicitation function held at Hotel Velero in Lusail on Thursday.

Dakar Rally titles and 18 times Middle East Championship wins. There is no other way to get such achievements but for the hard work and support from my country. I am thankful to Qatar government for all

the support I get for my sport. I love what I am doing and I always look to do best for my country,” said Al Attiyah.

On the secret of his success, the tall and tough sportsman said, “When I see eve-

ryone around me, it's a nice feeling. I always dream and work to be the number one to raise the Qatar flag.

“You have to be strong in the things you know and enjoy it. If you love to do something, do it properly, this is what I am trying to do and getting success.”

Being called as the “Pride of All Arabs” by the people at events honouring him, a touched Al Attiyah responded saying, “It feels amazing to be around all the friends and all the family. I get a lot of support from everyone here in Qatar and the Middle East also which keeps me going. This is a really nice, nice feeling. I try to do my best to be the number one and raise Qatar flag in the world.”

On the road ahead for the grueling Dakar rallies, Al Attiyah aims to break the record of eight titles in the car category (currently held by Frenchman Stephane Peterhansel). “I am really setting this target. The target to break the record for eight titles. We have won five now and we have a long mission. I hope we will be able to achieve the target. Inshallah, I will try my best to keep going in this class,” he said.

But it is the Oman International Rally next up from January 27, 2023. “I am looking forward to winning in Oman as we are aiming to win the Middle East Championship title again. I am ready for the challenge,” champion Al Attiyah remarked.

8TH LONGINES QATAR EQUESTRIAN TOUR HATHAB 2022-23



Yousef Mohammed Al Nuaimi, Director, Joint Services Department, The Social & Sport Contribution Fund (Daam), awards Big Tour winner Faleh Suweed Al Ajami at the Longines Outdoor Arena of Al Shaqab on Saturday.



Omar Al Mannai, Vice-Chairman of the Organizing Committee Longines Hathab, and Commercial Manager Al Shaqab, and Yousef Mohammed Al Nuaimi, Director, Joint Services Department, The Social & Sport Contribution Fund (Daam), with Longines Hathab 8th Tour Open Class podium winners.

Faleh Al Ajami sizzles on Ambre De Beaufour for Big Tour title

VINAY NAYUDU
DOHA

ON a big day of equestrian – which saw the Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani Rifle Day being held at the Al Rayyan Racecourse, the 8th Longines Hathab Qatar Equestrian Tour at the Longines Outdoor Arena of Al Shaqab delighted the audience in the evening on Saturday.

And it was Lekhwiya's Faleh Suweed Al Ajami who swept the Big Tour class competition field in fine style claiming the QR60,000 Big Tour top honours.

The 30-year-old excelled twice in the 13-rider jump-off, first riding bay gelding Larko Denfer and later returning on bay mare Ambre De Beaufour to set the course ablaze with a faultless and swift routine in 66.83secs.

Earlier, Ghanim Nasser Al Qadi on chestnut stallion Morocco set the pace clocking 76.51secs – easily clearing the 12 obstacle fences of 15 efforts including a double barrier succeeding a stretch of two single ones with all three in a row at the Karim Abid-designed course.

That time was first beaten by Al Ajami with Larko Denfer. The duo clocked faultless 75.04secs before Salmeen Sultan Al Suwaidi, the eventual runners-up, excelled on chestnut mare Fiori LS returning an error-free routine in 69.58secs.

Al Ajami then was the second last of the riders to go again in the jump-off riding Ambre De Beaufour and jumped high and clear keeping a good rhythm and pace on the well spread course.

Explaining his strategy which saw him succeed twice, Al Ajami said, “When I went in with the first horse (Larko Denfer) it was for the points keeping in mind the overall Big Tour annual competition so I tried to go as much as I could for a clear round, but with the second horse (Ambre De Beau-



Faleh Suweed Al Ajami astride Ambre De Beaufour during the 8th Longines Hathab Big Tour competition at the outdoor arena of Al Shaqab on Saturday.

four) I could go for the class and not for the points. Hence I put my best horse in the second ride going for the kill.”

On the first outdoor competition of the season, he added, “Everyone was pushing hard to win and I think I was lucky to win it. The course was tough and well designed and negotiating while keeping a good pace was tricky.”

Al Ajami has a well worked out plan for the season and said he hopes to achieve it. “I aim to get through with the Longines Hathab rankings to stay in contention for the overall title by mid of February before the HH The Amir Sword Festival. That is my target and which has been since the beginning of this season,” he said.

Earlier, the Open Class Power and Skill (Six Bar) Competition (115/125cm) saw exciting action with Ghanim Nasser Al Qadi emerging best with three clear jumps.

In the class, each rider had to clear a round consisting of six barriers which were removed each time a rider cleared, and replaced.

Mohammed Al Badi astride Tom Ford finished second with 4 penalties in the third jump, while Jodie Anne Leeder on B Chelsea S was third on the podium, also with 4 penalties.

The Longines Hathab Qatar Equestrian Tour is an annual series of 14 legs. The best eight results and overall rankings decide the eventual champions in showjumping and dressage at the end of season – which will be in May, 2023.

8th Longines Hathab Tour 2022-23 Results Big Tour | Table A, One round against the clock, Art. 238.2.1 | 130/145cm | Prize Money QR60,000

1 Rider: Faleh Suweed Al Ajami; Horse: Ambre De Beaufour; Jump-Off Faults 0; Time: 66.83secs; prize: QR16,500
2 Salmeen Sultan Al Suwaidi; Fiori LS; 0; 69.58secs; QR13,500
3 Faleh Suweed Al Ajami; Larko Denfer; 0; 75.04secs; QR9,000
4. Ghanim Nasser Al Qado; Morocco; 0; 76.51secs; QR6,000
Open Class | Power and Skill (Six Bar) Competition, Art. 262.3 | 115/125cm | Prize-Money QR 25,000
Rank Horse Rider Faults Jump-0 1 Jump-0 2 Jump-0 3 Jump-0 4 Prize Money
1 Aslan 69 Ghanim Nasser Al Qadi 0 0 0 - - QR6,250
2 Tom Ford Ahmed Mohammed Al Badi 0 0 4 - - QAR 4,375
2 B Chelsea S Jodie Anne Leeder 0 0 4 - - QR 4,375
4 Gerlin VD Waterkant Mohammed Yousef Al Jaber 0 4 - - QR 2,500.

QMMF's Team Thuraya second in 6H Abu Dhabi endurance race



Qatar Motor & Motorcycle Federation's HRT Thuraya team on Saturday clinched the second spot in the 992 AM Class at the Abu Dhabi 6H challenge. In the Porsche 911 GT3 Cup (992), driven by Qatari drivers Abdulla Ali Al Khelaifi, Ghanim Al Maadheed, and Ibrahim Al Abdulghani and German semi-pro Julian Hanes, Thuraya completed 146 laps at the Yas Marina Circuit with an average of 161.87kmh. The team registered their fastest time in the 130th lap when they clocked a time of 1:57.451. The Abu Dhabi race – a six-hour endurance test – was the second round of the 24-Hour Series and also the third round of the Middle East Endurance championship, following stops in Kuwait (12 hours) and the Dubai (24 hours).

India clinch ODI series vs NZ

ANI
RAIPUR

INDIA secured a comprehensive eight-wicket win against New Zealand in the second ODI on Saturday to clinch their seventh consecutive ODI series at home on Saturday.

Rohit Sharma's fifty coupled with a fiery performance from the Indian bowlers made sure that the hosts cruised to victory, chasing a paltry 109 at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium here.

The Indian captain played a 51-run knock while Shuman Gill remained unbeaten on 40 runs to take India over the line. Henry Shipley and Mitchell Santner took a wicket each.

After coming under a severe assault at the back end of the New Zealand chase in the first ODI, the Indian bowlers unleashed their fury to skittle

out the visitors for 108 in the second ODI.

The Indian new ball bowlers ran riot on a pitch that had decent grass cover, making use of the favourable bowling conditions on offer. Mohammad Shami was the wrecker-in-chief, scalping three wickets. Hardik Pandya and Washington Sundar picked two wickets each. Siraj, Kuldeep and Shardul took one wicket each.

Most New Zealand batsmen could not reach double digits.

Mohammad Shami was declared the player of the match for his clinical bowling performance in the first inning.

India have now 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

Scores: India 111/2 in 20.1 overs (Rohit Sharma 51, Shubman Gill 40*; Henry Shipley 1-29) **bt New Zealand 108** (Glenn Phillips 36, Mitchell Santner 27; Mohd Shami 3-18) **by 8 wkts.**

QF's WISE to focus on youth empowerment at fourth Doha Learning Days Festival 2023

Community festival aims to help create a local ecosystem where learning happens outside the classroom

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

UNDER the theme 'Youth Empowerment', WISE's Doha Learning Days Festival returns for its fourth edition to share opportunities with young people and help expand their skills in areas such as advocacy, the arts, well-being, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, tech, science, coding and more.

Hosted by Qatar Foundation's (QF) global education initiative the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE), the Doha Learning Days (DLD) Festival will take place from February 1 to 4 at the stunning Msheireb Museums and will offer over 50 workshops for families, youth and the wider community to engage in informal experiential learning. The festival, which is free to attend, will start with a

ceremony on February 1 to celebrate the 2022 WISE Awards winners and their innovation in addressing pressing education issues, before opening to the public on February 2.

DLD reinforces WISE's efforts to foster a vibrant learning ecosystem locally. The festival is designed to take learning out of formal education settings and expand the understanding of where learning can happen. To achieve this goal, WISE has curated the festival program with more than 20 multisectoral content partners who will offer interactive workshops, educational group sessions, stimulating speakers, and other practice-based learning activities that are both experiential and innovative.

Announcing the community festival, Stavros N Yianouka, CEO of WISE, said: "With our content partners,



Doha Learning Days will create an engaging environment for informal learning. The festival's ideal location at Msheireb Museums in the very heart of Doha meets our vision for creating a dynamic community-based setting where youth are empowered to connect their classroom learning with the skills to discover and map their strengths, talents, and purpose in innovative ways.

"The unique programme will appeal to students, educators and community members of all ages and interests who are keen to explore, create, and be challenged to learn and reflect in different ways. We invite everyone to come and be part of this exciting learning festival."

WISE Doha Learning Days 2023 is held in partnership with VISA, with the support of ExxonMobil as the event Platinum Partner. Strategic partners are Msheireb Museums and Swiss Wealth Manager, Julius Baer.

Commenting on the partnership with WISE and hosting the Doha Learning Days Festival, Ali Mohamed Al-Kuwari, Acting CEO of Msheireb Properties, said: "Msheireb Museums is proud to collaborate with WISE as Strategic Partner and host this valuable learning festival to support the education and creativity capabilities of our students and community members. This is in line with

our goal to upgrade the skills and capabilities of our community and unlock their potential. We are committed to strengthening community partnerships and promoting educational programs to further strengthen human capital development in our country."

Carl Manlan, Visa's Head of Inclusive Impact and Sustainability for Central and Eastern Europe, Middle East and Africa, said: "WISE brings together different knowledge and content partners to upskill the next generation of leaders able to capitalize on the opportunities in the digital economy. Visa is therefore pleased to be part of this exciting initiative and to support WISE in helping these young people gain the skills and knowledge they need to uplift communities both here and around the world."

In addition to the daytime school workshops which will invite students from across schools in Qatar to take part, the program will also include evening and weekend sessions

to encourage the wider community to participate.

DLD content partners include the Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Social Development and Family, Ministry of Sports and Youth, Studio 5/6 (Ministry of Communications and Information Tech), Tarsheed, Microsoft, Qatar Scientific Club, Qatar Sports for All Federation, The Learning Center (QF), QF International, Earthna, Qatar Academy, Generation Amazing, Maker Majlis - Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), Kabuni, Kidzania, Insaniyatna, Best Buddies, HBKU Press, Al Jazeera Media Institute, Qatar Academy Doha's Activists in Action, Doha Environmental Actions Project (DEAP), Injaz Qatar, ZNotes, and Paint the Town. Several partners will present offshoot activities at locations across Qatar.

To learn more, visit: <https://www.qf.org.qa/events/doha-learning-days-festival-2023>. For more information about WISE, please visit: <https://www.wise-qatar.org>

Doha Marathon by Ooredoo 2023 a huge success with record-breaking numbers



TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

OOREDOO, a longstanding supporter of major sports events in Qatar, announced that the 13th edition of its annual marathon, this year renamed the Doha Marathon by Ooredoo, was a roaring success.

The event was a complete sell-out, with 8,000 runners taking their places at the start line on the morning of Friday, January 20. Runners took part in a variety of distance categories, from the 1km kids' run to the full marathon.

Sheikh Ali bin Jabor Al Thani, recently appointed CEO at Ooredoo Qatar, said: "Once again, we are delighted and proud to announce our annual marathon was a phenomenal success. As always, the event attracted some of the world's top runners and was a complete sell-out, giving the opportunity for our local running enthusiasts to run alongside such sporting superstars. Thanks to the support of our partners and sponsors, we were able to ensure an incredible and upgraded experience for both runners and spectators alike, in line with Ooredoo's commitment to promoting the importance of a healthy, active lifestyle as part of our corporate social responsibility strategy."

A host of top international athletes took part, returning some incredible run times, with some athletes breaking their own personal records. Morocco's Mohcin Outalha crossed the finish line first in the men's marathon in a time of 2:06:49, with Kenyan Gevin Kerich taking second place with 2:06:52 on the clock. Kenyan Victor Kipchirchir and Ethiopian Adane Kebede finished in joint third place, registering a time of 2:06:54.

Ethiopian Meseret Belete took top spot in the women's marathon, clocking 2:20:45, with Desi Jisa Mokoni from Brunei finishing in second place



with a time of 2:20:47. Kenyan Beatrice Cheptoo placed third with a time of 2:22:28.

In the open marathon category, the men's race was won by Briton Michael Kallenberger with a time of 2:23:02, while the USA's Abigail Cember took top spot in the women's race, clocking 3:04:00.

Qatari runners were once again able to enter the AlAdaam category this year. Abdulla Fahad Al Zarra won the men's marathon with a time of 2:48:21, while Rabaah Al Musleh finished first in the women's marathon with a time of 3:50:55.

The men's half marathon was won by Morocco's Anouar El Ghouz in a time of 1:03:23, with Ukrainian Tetiana Pydyyna winning the women's half marathon in 1:08:53.

Mohammed Issa Al Fadal, President of Qatar Athletics Federation, said: "We extend our thanks to Ooredoo for once again hosting a phenomenal marathon that is consistently a highlight of Doha's sporting calendar. Events such as these demonstrate Qatar's suitability as the ideal venue for major sporting events, and this is only reinforced by the number of top international athletes who travel here to take part. We were delighted to see such an incredible turnout, and congratulate all runners on their sterling

performances." A total prize fund of QR1 million was on offer across all categories, with event sponsor Q-Auto also offering a Volkswagen T-Roc as a raffle prize to one lucky winner drawn from all those who finished their race in the 5km category and above.

Sheikh Ali bin Jabor Al Thani fired the starting gun for the Elite category and honoured winners with their medals. Sabah Rabiah Al-Kuwari, Director PR at Ooredoo, joined QAF President Mohammed Issa Al Fadal to present medals to winners in the other categories.

Spectators were able to enjoy the electric atmosphere from the many vantage points along the runner-friendly route, with the race village offering several food and beverage options and plenty of fun to be had by all.

Platinum sponsors for the Doha Marathon by Ooredoo 2023 were confirmed as Qatar Tourism, Q-Auto and Holding Group, with Qatar Airways and Seashore as Gold sponsors. Silver Sponsors are Al Rayyan Water, Aspetar, QIC and Qommunication.

In line with Ooredoo's commitment to supporting the community, all funds generated from registration fees for the 2023 Doha Marathon by Ooredoo will be donated to charitable organisations.



Mahaseel continues to draw large turnout of shoppers

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

THE seventh edition of the Mahaseel Festival, which is being organised by the Cultural Village Foundation (Katara), in cooperation with the Ministry of Municipality and the Qatari Farmers' Forum, in the southern side of the Cultural Village, continues to record a high turnout of shoppers. There are various offers on local farms produce and Qatari national companies' products at competitive prices, at the festival.

The stalls selling flowers and ornamental plants at the festival are receiving great interest from visitors and shoppers, as they offer a wide variety of bouquets of roses, natural flowers, ornamental plants, vegetable and fruit seedlings, in addition to providing various care, coordination and beautification items used in agriculture and household gardens.

One of the exhibitors said that since the opening of the festival, the various pavilions selling roses and ornamental seedlings have witnessed a great turnout from shoppers who purchase different types of rose bouquets and ornamental shrubs to decorate their homes.

He added that the shoppers find the festival as a suitable opportunity to acquire the finest types of agricultural products at competitive prices.

The festival is also witnessing a high number of visitors taking memorial photos in the green spaces decorated with flowers in a wonderful way.



A visitor said she loved to visit the festival for shopping and to spend quality time with her children, especially with some activities that are offered to the child, such as riding the wandering train.

She praised the organisers for the awareness workshops included in the festival, which contribute to educating children about the importance of agriculture and enriching their scientific knowledge.

Umm Hadi stated that the festival has become a marketing platform for Qatari agricultural products and also a destination that attracts shoppers to purchase their needs such as vegetables, meat, poultry and other agricultural products, in addition to being a platform for home farming enthusiasts who buy ornamental seedlings and shade shrubs to decorate their homes.

She appreciated the beautiful design of the festival, which added aesthetic view to the show and gives the visitor psychological comfort while walking around the fragrant rose formations.

The prominent exhibitors at the festival include the Oasis Agricultural Services Company Ltd., Aden Farm and Abdullah Salem Al-Sulaitin Farm, which provide different types of vegetables, fresh mushrooms and original honey, among other items.

This year's festival features the participation of 28 local farms, six companies specialising in poultry, meat and dairy products and eight nurseries, as well as shops selling traditional food.

