



Nine of world's top ten for Qatar TotalEnergies Open 2023

Jabeur, Peluga, Garcia, Sabalenka, Gauff, Kasatkina, Kudermetova, and Bencic among other stars also to be in action in Doha in the February 13-18 tournament

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
 DOHA

THE Qatar TotalEnergies Open will return with a bang with nine out of the world's top ten players confirmed to participate in the 2023 edition to be held at the Khalifa International Tennis & Squash Complex in Doha from February 13 to 18.

Of the world's top ten superstars, only Greece's Maria Sakkari, the world No. 6, is unlikely to be in action in the \$780,637 prize-money event.

The World No. 1 and defending champion Iga Swiatek of Poland leads the star cast of 56 players for the singles and 28 pairs for the doubles events of the 21st edition of the WTA 500 tournament. Swiatek defeated Estonia's Anett Kontaveit in straight sets last year to lift the golden falcon trophy for the first time in her career in Doha.

The 21-year-old Warsaw-

born player, who went on to add two Grand Slams (French Open and US Open) to her trophy cabinet after the victory in Doha, besides wins at Indian Wells, Miami, Stuttgart, Rome, and San Diego; in what was her best year so far on the tour, will be joined by super stars including Ons Jabeur, Jessica Peluga, Caroline Garcia, Aryna Sabalenka, Coco Gauff, Daria Kasatkina, Veronika Kudermetova, and Belinda Bencic to give tennis fans in Qatar and the region a treat of a lifetime.

For World No. 2 Ons Jabeur, the highest-ranked African and Arab tennis player in WTA and ATP history, a victory in Doha will not only cement her legendary status in the region, but will also ensure the tournament has an Arabian or African winner for the first time in its history – a record many people are looking forward to.

The 28-year-old Tunisian



World No. 1 and defending champion Iga Swiatek of Poland leads the star cast of 56 players for the singles and 28 pairs for the doubles events of Qatar TotalEnergies Open 2023 – the 21st edition of the WTA 500 tournament in Doha.

narrowly missed out twice on having a Grand Slam crown on her head last year, having suffered disappointing defeats at Wimbledon and at the US Open.

While all eyes will be on the top-ten stars as the favorites, two-time winner Petra Kvitova will also be waiting in the wings

with the expectation of making history of her own as the first player to lift the coveted trophy thrice.

Of the four lucky players who have been two-time champions in Doha, namely Anastasia Myskina, Maria Sharapova, Victoria Azarenka, and Petra Kvitova, only the 32-year-old

Kvitova and Belarussian Azarenka remain in contention to break the record and make history.

While Kvitova is one of the confirmed players for the main draw, Azarenka, on the other hand, is on the alternate players list at this year's edition.

Tournament Director Saad

Al Mohannadi, said: "It is a great privilege to have almost all the top players confirmed for the Qatar TotalEnergies Open once again. Their desire to be a part of this tournament is a further confirmation of the reputation it has garnered over the years, the recognition of the organization, and the maximum attention to detail everyone involved in the tournament has always put into it."

"We appreciate TotalEnergies, the title sponsor, and all our other supporters for their commitments over the years in always making this tournament a great success."

"This year's edition is unique in that it is the first major tournament to be hosted by Qatar after the grand success of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. We believe the world will witness an amazing event just like they did at Qatar 2022 and we can't wait to host the stars," he added.

The Qatar TotalEnergies Open 2023 is the 21st edition of the annual tennis tournament that has grown to become one of the main signature events on the Qatar sporting calendar.



Nassr's Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo gestures during the Saudi Pro League football match between Al Nassr and Al Ittifaq at the King Fahd Stadium in the Saudi capital Riyadh on Sunday. (AFP)

Ronaldo makes Al Nassr debut in win after waiting for his big moment

STATS PERFORM/DPA

CRISTIANO Ronaldo was handed a debut in Al Nassr's 1-0 win against Al Ittifaq on Sunday as the veteran striker made his first Saudi Pro League appearance.

Real Madrid's record goalscorer is set to play out the final years of his club career in Saudi Arabia, having signed a lucrative contract through to 2025 in December.

His debut for Al Nassr was delayed as 37-year-old Ronaldo served a two-match ban imposed by the English Football Association for an incident that saw him slap a phone from the hand of a young Everton supporter in a game at Goodison Park last season.

However, he was cleared to make his Al Nassr bow at last, with a new chapter beginning for the player who began his career at Sporting and also starred for Manchester United and Juventus.

Ronaldo was handed the captain's armband, having already featured for a Riyadh All-Stars team - scoring twice - against Lionel Messi's Paris Saint-Germain this week.

Talisca got the winner on Sunday in the first half.

Shock & Awe: Rybakina, Ostapenko make Swiatek and Gauff fall by the wayside

**Azarenka survives
 Lin scare**

STATS PERFORM/DPA
 MELBOURNE

IGA Swiatek admitted the pressure of the world number one tag got to her after crashing out of the Australian Open in the fourth round to Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina on Sunday.

The Russian-turned-Kazakh has spoken of her frustration at not being scheduled on the main courts since her success at the All England Club and, on Rod Laver Arena, she produced a big-stage performance to win 6-4 6-4.

Rybakina, who would be in the top 10 had Wimbledon offered ranking points, dropped only six points on her first serve during the match and recovered from 3-0 down against a frustrated Swiatek.

The result, coupled with defeats for Ons Jabeur, Rafael Nadal and Casper Ruud, means for the first time in the open era, the top two seeds in both the men's and women's draws have lost before the quarter-finals.

While it is a big shock, Swiatek is not as dominant on hard courts as she is on clay and, although she has talked here of not expecting herself to win every match, it is clear the Pole finds it difficult to temper those expectations.

"For sure the past two weeks have been pretty hard for me," said Swiatek, who won the French and US Opens last year.

"So I felt today that I don't have that much to take from myself to fight even more. I felt like I took a step back in terms of how I approach these tournaments, and I maybe wanted it a little bit too hard. So I'm going to try to chill out a little bit more."

"I felt the pressure, and I felt that I don't want to lose instead of I want to win. So that's, I think, a base of what I should



Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina hits a return against Poland's Iga Swiatek during their women's singles match on day seven of the Australian Open in Melbourne on Sunday. (AFP)

focus on in the next couple of weeks."

This was a meeting between the only two current active female Grand Slam champions, and Rybakina made the perfect start by breaking Swiatek's serve from 40-0.

Swiatek, who had received a warning before the start for taking too long to be ready to play, pulled back to 2-2 but the flatter hitting of Rybakina was paying dividends on a warm, sunny day in Melbourne and she forged ahead again to lead 4-3 and took the opening set.

Swiatek looked set to mount a comeback when she broke the Rybakina serve in the second game of the second but

back came the 22nd seed.

Swiatek had never quite looked comfortable and she was unable to withstand the pressure in the ninth game, with Rybakina breaking and then serving out the match to love to reach the quarter-finals at Melbourne Park for the first time.

"Usually when I come back from being down, I'm able to hold that momentum," said Swiatek. "Today I lost it. For sure she forced that as well, so congrats to her."

"I think it's going to be motivating for me, and I'm pretty sure that I'm going to play the next tournaments with something to focus on, something to



Latvia's Jelena Ostapenko celebrates victory against Coco Gauff of the US during their women's singles match on day seven of the Australian Open in Melbourne on Sunday. (AFP)

work on, and I think I'm going to go forward. So I think it's OK." In the last eight, Rybakina will play a resurgent Jelena Ostapenko, who powered her way to a 7-5 6-3 victory over seventh seed Coco Gauff.

A surprise winner of the French Open in 2017 aged 20, Ostapenko has struggled in recent years but last season saw her climb back up the rankings and she is through to this stage of a Grand Slam for the first time since reaching the Wimbledon semi-finals in 2018.

The Latvian, now 25, insisted she had kept believing in herself, saying: "My life changed a lot, so I needed a few years to really get used to what happened because I was really young. I always knew and believed in my game. If I play well, I can beat almost anyone."

Ostapenko simply had too much power for Gauff, who is one of the best defenders on tour but was unable to land her big first serve as often as she needed and paid the price.

It was a first defeat of the season for the 18-year-old following her title in Auckland

and Gauff, who is still playing in doubles, shed tears of disappointment in her press conference.

"I think it's because I worked really hard, and I felt really good coming into the tournament, and I still feel good," she said.

"I feel like I've improved a lot. But, when you play a player like her and she plays really well, it's like there's nothing you can do."

Third seed Jessica Pegula is now the highest seed remaining and she continued to look comfortable, defeating former French Open champion Barbora Krejickova 7-5 6-2.

The American, who is bidding to win her first grand slam title, said: "It doesn't really feel like I'm the highest left, even though I guess that's a cool stat. It feels like there's still a long ways to go."

In the final match of the day, two-time former champion Victoria Azarenka - the 24th seed - held off the challenge of unseeded Zhu Lin to prevail 4-6 6-1 6-4 and set up a last-eight showdown with Pegula.

Quick read

Shiffrin still awaiting record after seventh spot in Cortina super-g

Berlin: American Mikaela Shiffrin was made to wait again for a women's record 83rd World Cup career win in alpine skiing after finishing seventh in a super-G in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy on Sunday. Norway's Ragnhild Mowinckel won in 1 minute 23.22 seconds, 0.30 seconds ahead of Austria's Cornelia Hütter with Italian Marta Bassino third, according to provisional results. Shiffrin trailed the winner by a mere 0.62 seconds in a very tight race. The 27-year-old had started well, topping the timesheets in the first sector but she slowed in the lower portion of the course. The overall World Cup leader has now been waiting two weeks to break the record having drawn level with fellow American Lindsey Vonn on 82 wins at a giant slalom in Slovenia's Kranjska Gora on January 8. Her next chance for glory is set to be a giant slalom in Italy's Kronplatz on Tuesday. (DPA)

Arsenal beat Manchester United 3-2 with Nketiah's last-gasp winning goal



Arsenal's English striker Eddie Nketiah celebrates after scoring their third goal during the English Premier League match at the Emirates Stadium in London on Sunday. (AFP)



Arsenal players celebrate with English striker Eddie Nketiah after he scored a goal during the English Premier League match on Sunday. (AFP)

DPA
LONDON

EDDIE Nketiah's 90th-minute winner gave Arsenal a thrilling 3-2 victory over Manchester United to restore a five-point gap to Manchester City at the Premier League summit on Sunday.

Arsenal kicked off just two points clear at the top, hav-

ing seen City win twice since they last played, but they re-established a more comfortable cushion at the end of a gripping Emirates Stadium encounter.

United - themselves maintaining remote title hopes - scored first through Marcus Rashford, only to require a scruffy second-half leveller from Lisandro Martinez after goals from Nketiah and Bukayo

Saka had turned the game on its head.

Only Arsenal looked capable of providing a further twist, though, and it came through Nketiah with seconds remaining of normal time, giving the Gunners surely their biggest win of the season so far.

Rashford's stunning opener came somewhat out of the blue as Thomas Partey ceded pos-

session in his own half and was then nutmegged by the United forward, who arrowed a 20-yard drive into the bottom-left corner.

But that lead lasted only seven minutes before Arsenal brilliantly worked a crossing opportunity for Granit Xhaka on the left, from where he picked out Nketiah for a straightforward close-range header.

Saka's goal, which put Arsenal ahead early in the second half, was perhaps the best of the lot as the winger was allowed room to shoot from distance and blasted into the same corner Rashford had found at that end of the stadium.

Aaron Ramsdale initially kept Arsenal in front with a sharp stop from Rashford, but he was at fault when United

equalised, dropping a corner to allow Martinez's stooping, looping header to beat both the goalkeeper and a man on the line.

It did not look as though the decisive fifth goal would follow as Saka struck the post and David de Gea superbly denied Nketiah, yet it was the Arsenal striker who had the final say with a deft flick that withstood a VAR check for offside.

Lethal Haaland hat-trick seals City's 3-0 win over Wolves

DPA
LONDON

ERLING Haaland scored his fourth Premier League hat-trick of the season as Manchester City beat relegation-threatened Wolves 3-0 on Sunday.

Lethal striker Haaland opened the scoring with a header from close range in a one-sided first half at the Etihad Stadium.

He was on target again from the penalty spot early after the restart and completed his hat-trick four minutes later following a terrible mistake from Wolves goalkeeper Jose Sa, taking his goal tally for the season to a staggering 31.

City boss Pep Guardiola had demanded more hunger from his second-placed side in their quest for more trophies and they responded.

Wolves defended resolutely in the first half, but it seemed only a matter of time before they went behind and Haaland got the breakthrough by rising above Nathan Collins to head Kevin De Bruyne's cross beyond Sa in the 40th minute.

Collins was fortunate not to concede a penalty for a chal-



Manchester City's Norwegian striker Erling Haaland celebrates after scoring a goal with teammates during the English Premier League football match at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester. (AFP)



lenge on Jack Grealish, before the centre-back showed great anticipation to head away a rasping drive from the England midfielder that looked destined for the back of the net.

Wolves boss Julen Lopetegui made a triple substitution at half-time, bringing Pablo Sarabia on for his debut along with Matheus Cunha and Joao Moutinho.

Haaland gave City breathing space five minutes into the second half, sending Sa the wrong way from the spot after Ruben Neves upended Ilkay Gundogan.

The Norway goal machine had his treble soon after, Sa inexplicably passing straight to the excellent Riyad Mahrez, who unselfishly presented Haaland with a tap-in.

Haaland was then replaced by Julian Alvarez before Mahrez had a goal ruled out due to being marginally offside and Gundogan headed over from close range as City cruised to victory.

Results
Manchester City 3-0
Wolverhampton Wanderers
Arsenal 3-2 Manchester United

Germany were the 'big losers' in World Cup on and off the pitch: Uli Hoeness

DPA
MUNICH

THE 1974 World Cup winner Uli Hoeness believes Germany were "the big losers" at the Qatar edition of the tournament.

Germany went out in the group stage for the second straight time in December while trying to use the first Arab World Cup to press for more freedoms in the region.

Captain Manuel Neuer was among several European skipper who wanted to wear a multi-coloured rainbow armband to promote diversity in a country where homosexuality is banned.

World governing body FIFA threatened sanctions if players did so, leading German Interior and Sports Minister Nancy Faeser to don the armband in the stands instead.

"Germany has never projected such a bad image as it did in this World Cup," Bayern Munich's honorary president told Sport1 on Sunday, adding that Faeser's actions were "laughable."

The 71-year-old believes



Germany's 1974 World Cup winner Uli Hoeness.

that constant negativity surrounding the Qatar World Cup from Germany media, in particular over the deaths of migrant workers building the stadiums, went too far.

"We Germans believe we can change the world alone, that's the problem. Unfortunately, it's not possible," he said, adding that the high standard of play in Qatar was largely ignored by Germans.

Hoeness Bayern are sponsored by Qatar Airways and the honorary president has been vocal in criticising club fans who want the deal to end.

Haller makes comeback as Dortmund edge Augsburg

DPA
BERLIN

SEBASTIEN Haller finally made his Borussia Dortmund debut after treatment for a testicular tumour as his side beat Augsburg 4-3 at home on Sunday to resume their Bundesliga campaign on a high.

Jude Bellingham and Nico Schlotterbeck netted either side of Arne Maier's strike for Augsburg, who levelled through Ermedin Demirovic in stoppage time at the end of a manic first half.

English winger Jamie Bynoe-Gittens gave Dortmund the lead off the bench with a fine strike only for David Colina to soon hit back. But Giovanni Reyna grabbed the winner on 78 minutes with a clever finish.

Striker Haller was signed from Ajax in pre-season, shortly before his shock diagnosis in July. Chemotherapy and

two surgeries followed for the 28-year-old, who started on the bench before being introduced to huge cheers just after the hour.

The Ivory Coast international could not fashion a dream goal though as his fellow substitutes made the difference. The wild win lifted Dortmund back up to sixth in their first competitive game for two months because of the World Cup and Bundesliga mid-season break.

"The welcome I received was just unforgettable. Everyone enjoyed this moment. I hope this moment was something to take with the team," Haller told DAZN. "It was really noisy, it was crazy to be able to live that moment."

I've got a few things to do to reach my full fitness. I'm just happy to be here and to be able to play." Augsburg, who could easily have made it 4-4 given Dortmund's familiar defensive frailties, slip to fourth from bottom.



Augsburg's Belgian midfielder Arne Engels (right) and Dortmund's French forward Sebastien Haller vie for the ball during the German first division Bundesliga match in Dortmund on Sunday. (AFP)

"We will take the positives with us at least," said Maier. "We put in a very good performance." Bayer Leverkusen won 3-2 at Borussia Mönchengladbach in Sunday's late game between mid-table underachievers.

Wingback Mitchel Bakker and forward Amine Adli set up

the win in the first half before Nadiem Amiri added the decider and Lars Stindl a quickfire Gladbach double after the break.

On Friday, leaders Bayern Munich drew 1-1 at RB Leipzig and are now seven points ahead of old rivals Dortmund.

Eintracht Frankfurt took

over second on Saturday after a 3-0 win over bottom side Schalke and Freiburg's surprise 6-0 loss at Wolfsburg.

Dortmund's teenage forward Youssoufa Moukoko, who signed a new deal until 2026 on Saturday, scuffed the first big chance over the line.

England World Cup star Bellingham, constantly linked in the media with a move to Liverpool, again pulled the strings in midfield for the hosts and struck in style on the half hour.

The 19-year-old created a tiny amount of space on the edge of the box and drilled home into the near corner. Out of nowhere, poor Dortmund defending allowed Augsburg's Maier to level on 40 minutes but Schlotterbeck, partly at fault for conceding, soon put the home side back in front when he headed in a free-kick.

But there was still time in the first half for more diabolical Dortmund defending and Demi-

rovic netted his sixth of the season.

Norwegian right back Julian Ryerson, who like Haller made his Dortmund debut having signed from Union Berlin in the week, impressed and was unlucky to deflect Demirovic's dink over the line.

Haller entered the fray for Moukoko and showed some delightful touches, but it was Bynoe-Gittens - also out for much of the season - who scored before Colina and Reyna quickly traded goals.

Reyna's winner follows a poor World Cup for the 20-year-old, who was criticized by the US coach for his attitude.

There is Bundesliga midweek action when the season reaches halfway.

Dortmund are at Mainz on Wednesday while Bayern play Tuesday at home to Cologne, who thumped Werder Bremen 7-1 on Saturday.

Al Arabi take on Al Sadd In Qatar Derby as QNB Stars League action set to resume

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

TABLE toppers Al Arabi will take on reigning champions Al Sadd in the Qatar Derby in Week 11 clash of the 2022-2023 season QNB Stars League at the Al Arabi Stadium on Monday.

The league returns to action after a postponed week of action since many of the club players were doing duty for their national teams at the 25th Arabian Gulf Cup.

The 7pm kick-off clash will provide its own excitement for the fans irrespective of the teams' standings in the points tally. Both teams have exciting stars who are capable of stealing the show on a given day.

Al Arabi are at the top of the standings with 22 points from seven wins, a draw and a loss, while Al Sadd are eighth with 10 points from three wins, a draw and four defeats.

Speaking on the eve of the match, Al Sadd coach Juan Maneul Lillo 'Juanma' said, "We know that Al Arabi are a strong competitor and are at the top of standings. Their leadership stature provides more value to the match."

"Presently, we have the players who have returned af-



Al Sadd coach Juan Maneul Lillo 'Juanma' (left) and Al Arabi coach Younes Ali speak to the media on Sunday on the eve of their teams' Week 11 QNB Stars League clash at the Grand Hamad Stadium.



Al Arabi coach Younes Ali (right) and Al Sadd coach Juan Maneul Lillo 'Juanma' (left) speak to the media on Sunday on the eve of their teams' Week 11 QNB Stars League clash at the Grand Hamad Stadium.

ter the World Cup and they are adapting to their new roles. We also have players who were with the national team at the 25th Arabian Gulf Cup. With all these players back in the side, a new and different path begins for the team."

Al Sadd defender Pedro Miguel said, "The match will be difficult because Al Arabi are in good form and have a good team. Al Sadd are also ready. Some of our players have now returned. We need the points and everyone knows that this is a very difficult match but we are ready. Our goal is to win and continue to compete for

the league title."

In contrast, Al Arabi coach Younes Ali said his team is aware of the enormity of the task.

"The team is well prepared to face Al Sadd and our preparations were good during the past week after the postponement of Week 10 matches. So it was good especially since the Al Sadd match is always difficult," he said, adding, "Our team is game for it and we will do our best to put up a strong showing."

Al Sadd are looking for compensation after losing the services of more than one player in the first seven matches

and we are also looking to produce another distinguished appearance and collect the three points." Post-World Cup break, the QNB Stars League is expected to gather momentum with teams moving into the return leg stage and pushing hard to gain points and improve their positions.

Al Arabi will aim to continue their winning run and hold on to the top position they have gained having made a robust start to the league. They have been served superbly by some of their players including Syrian striker Omar Al Somah and Tunisian Yousef Msakni among

other distinguished players.

As for Al Sadd, who now have regained the services of their international players after they were all doing duties for their nations during the World Cup, will be back at full strength and emerge as a much different rival than earlier. The Wolves are looking to strike and achieve victories to regain stature.

Al Sadd have a striking force and a topline defence served by the likes of Akram Afif, Hassan Al Haydous, Baghdad Bounedjah and Andrew Ayew.

Aware of the tough task, Al Arabi too would bring out their

best to live up to their fans' expectations.

Given the challenge and the eagerness of teams, the match would surely live up to the billing and provide enthralling entertainment to the fans.

Also on Monday, Al Shamal will meet Al Duhail at the Al Duhail Stadium at 4.30pm.

The match is crucial for both teams who will be striving to get the valuable three points, especially Al Duhail - who are eager to make it to the top of the rankings. Only two points separate Al Duhail and leaders Al Arabi, while Al Shamal are looking to score wins to improve their position in the table.

Al Duhail so far have 20 points from nine matches, while Al Shamal are in seventh place with 10 points obtained from seven matches, after their matches were postponed when the league resumed after a long break.

The day's third clash will see Al Markhiya face Al Ahli at the Al Duhail Stadium at 7pm.

While Al Ahli are in the top four (13pts), Al Markhiya are ninth (8pts) and would aim to challenge their rivals.

Both teams would be looking for a win eyeing the valuable three points and that is expected to add thrill to the contest.

Tsitsipas holds off Sinner fightback to make last eight

PA MEDIA/DPA
MELBOURNE

STEFANOS Tsitsipas survived a compelling five-set battle with Jannik Sinner to reach the quarter-finals of the Australian Open.

The Greek, a semi-finalist in three of the last four years and the highest-ranked player remaining, has looked a man on a mission since arriving in Melbourne and had not dropped a set prior to this clash.

For two sets he appeared in control against Italian Sinner, seeded 15, but the wheels began to come off in the third and his opponent, who remarkably took only four of the 26 break points he created, fought back to level with some terrific power tennis.

Sinner, who lost an epic five-setter to Carlos Alcaraz in the US Open quarter-finals, seemed to have the momentum, but he lost his way at the wrong moment and Tsitsipas thrilled the many Greek fans packed into Rod Laver Arena by completing a 6-4 6-4 3-6 4-6 6-3 victory after exactly four hours.

"It was a long match," said a delighted Tsitsipas. "I felt like I played an entire century in this court. What a great night. That was superb. A ripper as they say here."

"I'm really excited to be sharing moments like this out on the court."

It's not easy. I had an unbelievable opponent on the other side of the court playing incredible tennis in the third and fourth set. I stayed really calm." The third seed will now be the favourite to reach the final from the top half in what is becoming the sort of wide open grand slam draw - a limping Novak Djokovic aside - that men's tennis has not seen for



Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas hits a return against Italy's Jannik Sinner during their men's singles match on day seven of the Australian Open in Melbourne on Sunday. (AFP)

more than a decade.

There were more shocks on Sunday, with American Sebastian Korda following up his upset of Daniil Medvedev by knocking out 10th seed Hubert Hurkacz, while unseeded Czech Jiri Lehecka defeated sixth seed Felix Auger-Aliassime.

Auger-Aliassime was the final victim of the 'Netflix curse', with all the players who featured prominently in the documentary series Break Point now having exited the tournament.

Lehecka, who now faces Tsitsipas, got the better of British number one Cameron Norrie in the third round and the 21-year-old is now through to the last eight at a slam for the first time after defeating Auger-Aliassime 4-6 6-3 7-6 (2) 7-6 (3).

Korda could not find the same consistency as tennis he showed against Medvedev

but survived a nail-biting deciding tie-break, clinching a 3-6 6-3 6-2 1-6 7-6 (7) victory with a backhand winner after a 27-shot rally.

The 22-year-old is bidding to follow in the footsteps of his father Petr 25 years after his title at Melbourne Park, while his sisters Jessica and Nelly have both won the Australian Open in golf.

While both Petr and Korda's mother Regina, who was also a professional tennis player, are very much involved in their son's career, neither is in Australia, with Korda being coached by former Czech player Radek Stepanek.

Korda said of his family: "They stayed up. My oldest sister, she's not playing this week. My other sister Nelly, I think she's second place right now playing in a tournament. I hope she's sleeping. I hope she didn't watch and she's getting ready

for a big day today.

"I just got off the phone with them. They're going to try to go to bed. My dad's birthday tomorrow here. Early birthday present in a way." Korda also counts Andre Agassi as a mentor and touched both his father's name and Agassi's on the walk of champions as he headed out to Rod Laver Arena.

"Every single time I walk by, I always give (them) a little fist pump," said Korda. "Kind of makes me feel like they're with me in a way. I always know that they're watching. They're both very special for me. They helped me a ton." Russia's Karen Khachanov won the first 14 games of his match against Yoshihito Nishioka before the Japanese player belatedly made a fist of things in a 6-0 6-0 7-6 (4) defeat.

Incredibly, 31st seed Nishioka won just two points in the second set.



Victor Perez of France plays a shot during the final round of the Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship at Yas Links Golf Course in Abu Dhabi on Sunday. (AFP)

Perez survives late scare to win in Abu Dhabi after bunker shot

PA MEDIA/DPA
BERLIN

VICTOR Perez survived a nervous finale to win the Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship by one shot after a shooting a six-under-par 66 in his final round.

The Dundee-based Frenchman started the day a shot off co-leaders Shane Lowry, Francesco Molinari and Min Woo Lee. While former Open winners Lowry and Molinari faded, Australian Lee stayed in contention and managed to draw level after Perez dropped a shot at the 14th at Yas Links.

Perez, who finished runner-up here in 2020, responded

impressively with an immediate birdie at the 15th before holing his bunker shot at the 17th for another gain and a two-shot lead.

It looked unassailable before he found another bunker and then the penalty area on the 18th but he took his medicine with a bogey to finish on a victorious 18-under-par total.

Lee and Swede Sebastian Soderberg finished tied for second after shooting 68 and 67 respectively, while Padraig Harrington, who at 51 was bidding to become the oldest winner on the DP World Tour, was fourth on his own on 16 under after closing with a 67.



Grant Forrest of Scotland during the final round of the Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship at Yas Links Golf Course in Abu Dhabi on Sunday. (AFP)



Evan Mobley of the Cleveland Cavaliers shoots over Brook Lopez of the Milwaukee Bucks during the fourth quarter at Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse in Cleveland, Ohio, on Sunday. (AFP)

Cavs down Bucks without Giannis again, Celtics beat Raptors

DPA
BERLIN

EVAN Mobley scored a career-high 38 points as the Cleveland Cavaliers secured a big win in the Eastern Conference, downing the Milwaukee Bucks 114-102.

The 2021 NBA Draft third overall pick shot 19-of-27 from the field with nine rebounds and three assists for the Cavs, who improved to a 29-19 record to sit fifth in the east, with

the Bucks third at 29-17.

Cavs point guard Darius Garland added 21 points, including 10 in the third, with 10 assists.

The Bucks were without Giannis Antetokounmpo who missed his fifth straight game due to knee soreness. Milwaukee are 6-5 on the season when playing without the MVP contender.

Jrue Holiday led the way for Milwaukee with 28 points, four rebounds and 10 assists,

while Bobby Portis added 23 points including five three-pointers with 11 rebounds.

In Antetokounmpo's absence, Milwaukee turned to three-point shooting with regularity, but shot 14-of-39 from beyond the arc.

On Antetokounmpo's continued absence, Bucks head coach Mike Budenholzer said: "There's still just things he's working on, I think body-wise, to get to that point where; there's a big difference between

practicing and playing a game.

"I know I've said it pretty much every day - we continue to be confident and feel like this is kind of the things we've managed and dealt with for most of his career. So we'll just continue to take it day-by-day. He's getting good work in, good lifts." The Boston Celtics won 106-104 over the Toronto Raptors but lost guard Marcus Smart and center Robert Williams to ankle and knee injuries respectively.

Brazilian Calderano wins WTT Contender Doha 2023

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

BRAZIL'S Hugo Calderano has built on his impressive start to the year with his second men's singles title in as many weeks.

Lifting the trophy at WTT Contender Doha 2023, the "Thrill from Brazil" once again lived up to the billing as top seed in Doha, successfully navigating a tricky affair against 5th seed Jang Woojin with three of the five games being decided by the narrowest of margins (12-10, 11-13, 11-3, 14-12, 11-7) on the final day (Saturday) of play at WTT Contender Doha 2023.

"I feel amazing. It's very hard to win titles like this. To win two WTT Contender titles in a row was a big challenge for me, both mentally and physically, to play at this high level for two weeks, so I'm very proud to be able to achieve this.

"I've been working a lot on my physicality and I think my body held up well. Next up I'm going to Singapore Smash, a very important event, so I hope to prepare well and get a good



WTT Contender Doha 2023 winner and runners-up with their trophies after being honoured by Qatar Table Tennis Association President Khalil Al Mohannadi on Saturday.

result there," he said.

Hugo Calderano, Like Calderano, Kuai Man and Zhang Rui have won their second ti-

tle of the month after clinching the Women's Doubles title in Doha. The Chinese duo added to their WTT Contender Dur-

ban 2023 success with another strong display against 3rd seeds Jeon Jihee and Shin Yubin (5-11, 11-5, 11-8, 11-9).

The men's doubles trophy went to Yu Ziyang and Zhou Kai, who completed a magnificent run from unseeded quali-

fiers to champions with a 3-1 victory over 3rd seeds An Jae-hyun and Cho Seungmin (5-11, 11-7, 11-7, 11-9).

QGF announces Artistic Gymnastics Doha Stars Championship for clubs

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

THE Qatar Gymnastics Federation (QGF) will host the Artistic Gymnastics Doha Stars Championship for clubs from January 26-28 in which clubs from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan, UAE and Lebanon besides Qatar will participate.

Ali Al Hitmi, President of the Qatar Gymnastics Federation and First Vice-President of the International Gymnastics Federation, said that the championship is being held with the aim of spreading the culture of gymnastics at local as well as Arab level. In future, European and continental clubs will also be invited to participate.

It is expected that the tournament will witness strong competitions, especially since the public attendance will be large given the high participation of gymnasts.

Abeer Al Buainain, Secretary-General of QGF, and Tournament Director, confirmed that the organizing committee is working hard to



Ali Al Hitmi, President, Qatar Gymnastics Federation, and First Vice-President, International Gymnastics Federation.

make the new version of clubs gymnastics c'ship a big success.

She added that committees have been formed for this tournament and that the technical committee has already prepared the program for the championship.

Al Buainain said, "We consider hosting such tournaments as an opportunity to exchange experiences between gymnasts of countries participating in the



Qatar gymnasts train ahead of the Artistic Gymnastics Doha Stars Championship for clubs to be held from January 26-28.

tournament. There is no doubt that we have many gains at various levels from organizing such tournaments, hence we were also keen on participating delegations to watch it.

"We aim to host a distinc-

tive event inkeeping Qatar's organizational abilities and everyone will enjoy the technical level of the participants. We wish everyone all success in the first edition of the championship."

Quick read

ICC Awards winners to be announced from today

DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) will start announcing the winners of the prestigious ICC Awards 2022 from Monday onwards, informed the sport's global governing body on Sunday.

"Following a busy voting period involving media representatives and cricket fans alike from around the world, the International Cricket Council (ICC) today unveils the schedule for announcing the winners of the coveted ICC Awards 2022, starting from Monday, January 23," the ICC said in a statement.

Through four days of staggered announcements across ICC digital channels, the ICC Awards 2022 promises to celebrate the standout performers in men's and women's international cricket during the last calendar year, and with voting now concluded, it is almost time for the winners to be revealed.

No fewer than 13 categories will honour the outstanding performers across the various formats of international cricket, which includes the iconic Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year and the Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year. Before the individual prize-winners are announced, the ICC will reveal five Teams of the Year, selected by the independent panel of media representatives that make up the ICC Voting Academy. (ANI)

Florian de Joya tops Qatar Chess Center's Ranking Championship

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

FILIPINO Florian de Joya won the Qatar Chess Center Ranking Championship held over three days recently.

As many as 28 male and female players participated in the championship played using the classic chess method according to the Swiss system (5 rounds / half an hour + 30 seconds for each move) in the presence of Mohammed Al Mudahka, President of the Qatar Chess Association, and Youssef Mohammed Al Mutawa, Secretary-General, QCA.

Florian de Joya topped the tally to emerge best while Indian Syed Abdel Qader finished second and Egyptian Mahmoud Younis was third.

The best Qatari player in the tournament was Rayan Irfan.

Khaled Al Jamaat won the best player award in under-12 category.

QCF Secretary-General Al Mutawa praised the levels of the ranking tournament and the excitement due to the desire of the players to increase their rating.

He said, "We are happy with the success of the tournament and the keenness of the players to compete in competitions, which were very strong.

"The Qatar Chess Federation's plan is based on honing young talent to prepare a chess generation aware of the various competitions, and therefore their participation in such tournaments is important."



Qatar Chess Association President Mohammed Al Mudahka overlooks a board during the tournament.



The winners with QCA Secretary-General Youssef Mohammed Al Mutawa and other officials at the Qatar Chess Training Center.

Men's Hockey World Cup



Action from the India vs New Zealand match of FIH 2023 Men's Hockey World Cup played at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar on Sunday.

Heartbreak for India as Kiwis win on penalties

ANI
BHUBANESWAR

NEW Zealand held their nerves to edge India in the penalty shootout at the Kalinga Stadium on Sunday, as the hosts crashed out of the 2023 Hockey World Cup.

In the shootout, Nic Woods missed the first hit to give India the opportunity but Harmanpreet also could not get past the New Zealand goalkeeper, with the score still level at 3-3.

Findlay finally put the Black Sticks ahead in their seventh attempt but Raj Kumar Pal scored to tie the score at 4-4.

Hayden Phillips and Sukhjeet Singh both missed on the eighth attempt to make things more dramatic.

Lane scored the crucial goal to put New Zealand ahead at 5-4. All hopes hung on Shamsher but he failed to rally past the goalkeeper as India crashed out of the Hockey World Cup on home soil.

Earlier, despite being ahead in the game, India missed the opportunity to build on a 3-1 lead in the third quarter, when New Zealand scored twice in the final quarter to tie the game at the end of the regular time, forcing a penalty shootout.

In regular time, India's goals came from Lalit Upadhyay (17 minutes), Sukhjeet Singh (24 minutes), and Varun Kumar (40 minutes), whereas the Black Sticks' goals came from Sam Lane (28 minutes), Kane Russell (43 minutes), and Sean Findlay (49 minutes).

India battled back to tie the score at 3-3 in the shootout thanks to a few outstanding saves from seasoned goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, and had two chances in the sudden death as Shamsher Singh missed the final shootout attempt to lose 4-5 in front of the home crowd.

India started the crucial match aggressively as they stormed into New Zealand's circle in the first minute. The hosts lost possession but looked determined to take the lead as they made another penetration in the third minute through India number 11 Mandeep Singh, who made an excellent run into

the Kiwi circle.

New Zealand made their first attack in the sixth minute through a long aerial pass but the hosts counterattacked quickly, coming perilously close to scoring the first goal, but the New Zealand defence stayed alert to avert any danger.

Nic Woods was issued a green card in the eighth minute, forcing the Kiwi side to play with a 10-man team for two minutes. Manpreet Singh too was issued a green card for carrying on to play even after the referee's whistle to stop play.

The hosts faced a goal threat in the 11th minute but India's resolute defence made sure the ball did not go past them. India earned their first penalty corner (PC) in the 13th minute with Harmanpreet sending the ball to the left of the goalkeeper but failing to find the back of the net.

New Zealand will lock horns with defending champions Belgium on January 24 while India will face Japan on January 26 for the 9th-16th position.

Spain beat Malaysia 4-3 on penalties, set up QF clash with Australia

Spain also made it to the quarter-finals edging past Malaysia 4-3 on penalties after playing a 2-2 stalemate on Sunday to set up a clash with three-time champions Australia in the final eight.

Malaysia got a 1-0 lead in the penalty shootout with Firhan Ashari converting a stroke for his side.

But Spain's Alvaro Iglesias failed to convert it.

Saari made it 2-0 for Malaysia but Miralles redeemed Spain with a strike that made the scoreline 1-2.

Marhan Jalil was unsuccessful for Malaysia in the third penalty. A strike from Jordi Bonastre made it 2-2 for both the sides.

Shahmeh Irfan Suhaimi scored in the fourth penalty for Malaysia to restore the lead. But a goal from Gispert made the scoreline 3-3.

Shello and Firhan missed their strokes for Malaysia, but Miralles converted the final penalty for Spain to give his side a 4-3 win.

PRIME MINISTER INAUGURATES UMM AL SENEEM HEALTH CENTRE



Prime Minister and Minister of Interior HE Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani inaugurated Umm Al Seneem Health Center in Ain Khalid on Sunday. The Prime Minister and Minister of Interior toured the new health centre where he was briefed on its various facilities, sections and medical units. He also listened to an explanation about the various medical services and health care provided to patients and visitors. Umm Al Seneem Health Center was designed and built in accordance with the highest international standards approved for health facilities and sustainability standards. The opening ceremony was attended by a number of ministers and senior officials. (QNA)



Umm Al Seneem Health Centre takes number of PHCC health centres to 30

Continued from page 1

DURING the past 10 years, the PHCC has succeeded in preserving the health of Qatar's population by providing the best health services and constantly developing them through specialised clinics, and establishing more than five health and wellness centres in the country as preventive services.

With the opening of the Umm Al Seneem Health Center, the number of PHCC health centres reached 30. The centre is located in Zone 56, which includes Ain Khaled, Abu Hamour and Umm Al Seneem. The registration is carried out according to the registered national address.

Umm Al Seneem Health Center provides all basic services from 7am to 11pm, Sunday to Thursday. The services and clinics available are: Family Medicine; Antenatal and Postnatal; Well Baby & Vaccinations; Womens Health; Non-Communicable Diseases; Smoking Cessation; Communicable Diseases & Travel Vaccine; Dental; Maternal & Child Health counselor; SMART health check-up; Dietitian; and Health Education, in addition to Specialised Clinics, including Ophthalmology, ENT, Dermatology, Audiology and Optometry.

In designing the new health centres, people with special needs were taken into account to provide accessible services such as guiding signs of expressive images, Braille for the blind, appropriate toilets, wide corridors for ease of movement, automatic doors, reception desks of appropriate height, and parking spaces close to the main entrances and ramps.

When designing the building, it was taken into consideration that it should be characterised by the Qatari heritage, conform to the highest international fire safety standards, and, most importantly, the health centre's engineering to absorb modern medical equipment.



Cruise ship Costa Toscana comes with 3,798 tourists to Doha Port on 2nd visit

QNA
DOHA

DOHA Port on Sunday received 3,798 tourists aboard the Italian cruise ship 'Costa Toscana', owned and operated by Costa Cruises, a subsidiary of Carnival Corporation and plc, as part of its second voyage of Qatar Tourism's 2022-2023 cruise season.

The ship, which flies the flag of Italy, can accommodate 6,500 passengers and features its own water park, 13 swimming pools and hot tubs, as well as 13 restaurants and 19 entertainment halls.

The Italian cruise ship 'Costa Toscana' arrived on its first voyage to Qatar this month as part of its first tour in the region.

The current tourist season continues until April. It is scheduled to witness the arrival of 58 international cruise ships, in addition to four tourism companies launching their first trips to Qatar.

The cruise sector in Qatar has contributed to strengthening Qatar's position as a leading destination for cruise tourism in the region. The sector supports the growth of the national economy in Qatar by increasing tourism spending and providing more employment and business opportunities.



Since the return of cruise tourism in the season 2021-2022 after being halted by COVID-19, the cruise sector in Qatar has recorded significant growth. Doha Port received about 8,000 visitors last December, most of whom came from Italy and Russia, while the total number of visitors during the previous season was 100,500 passengers.

NU-Q gets Carnegie grant to expand Arab Information and Media Studies sector

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

THE Carnegie Corporation of New York has awarded Northwestern University in Qatar (NU-Q) a \$350,000 grant to expand the field of Arab Information and Media Studies (AIMS) over the next two years.

The grant will also support a collaboration between AIMS and the Security in Context (SIC) network, a global initiative promoting critical research and policy analysis on peace and conflict.

Each year, the Carnegie Corporation of New York awards grants to organisations around the world to develop projects that promote the advancement and diffusion of knowledge and understanding.

Projects awarded for the Carnegie Corporation of New York grants are selected based on their capacity to create measurable impact and drive meaningful and transformative change.

Directed by Marwan M. Kraidy, dean and CEO of Northwestern University in Qatar, the Arab Information and Media Studies (AIMS) project will expand the field of critical media and information studies in the Arab region and transform it into a more interdisciplinary, multi-lingual, collaborative, research-oriented and policy-relevant field through the Institute for Advanced Study in the Global South at Northwestern University in Qatar (#IAS_NUQ).

The AIMS project will connect Arabophone, Anglophone and Francophone Arab media scholarly communities through networking, translation of scholarly works, publications and multilingual events.

The project will also integrate the study of media and information in the Arab world into transnational networks of ideas and knowledge based in the Global South.

The grant will also support a collaborative research initiative between AIMS and the Security in Context network titled Global



South Insecurity in an era of Great Power Competition. Researchers from around the world will join scholars at Northwestern University in Qatar to examine the contours of the emerging world order on the Arab world and other regions of the Global South. This research initiative will be led by Sami Hermez, who serves as coordinator of the Qatar hub of the Critical Security Studies network.

In highlighting the impact of AIMS, Kraidy said it will increase research capacity in information and media studies in the Arab region, deepening bonds between regional universities and research institutes while broadening their global connections.

"Across the numerous academic departments of journalism and media in the Arab world, the field of information and media studies is ripe for development," said Kraidy. "Our project has a triple distinction: it is hosted at Northwestern, a global leader in communication, journalism, the social sciences and the humanities; it is located in the Arab region; and it is explicitly trilingual, reflecting the rich pan-Arab diversity of research languages and tradition."

"These qualities will help us catalyse a qualitative leap in regional knowledge production on Arab media and information, and connect regional research to global networks."

Omar Dahi, founding director of Security in Context and interim vice-president for academic affairs and dean of faculty and professor of economics at Hamp-

shire College, said: "Security in Context is thrilled to be partnering with the Northwestern University in Qatar's Institute for Advanced Study in the Global South. Our collaboration will allow us to jointly explore some of the most pressing challenges facing societies today, with particular focus on how great power competition is increasingly shaping and being shaped by Global South dynamics. We plan to leverage the expertise in both of our expanding networks to advance cutting-edge, justice-oriented, policy-relevant work."

In addition to Kraidy and Hermez, the projects will draw on the expertise of several Northwestern Qatar researchers and scholars, including Marina Krikorian, research manager for programmes and projects at #IAS_NUQ, who will be responsible for the management of AIMS, and Clovis Bergère, assistant director for research at #IAS_NUQ and member of the Critical Security Studies Qatar hub. "We are deeply grateful to the Carnegie Corporation of New York," Kraidy said.

The Arab Information and Media Studies (AIMS) project is one of many scholarly initiatives aimed to support knowledge production in the region by the Institute for Advanced Study in the Global South at Northwestern University in Qatar (#IAS_NUQ), which produces and promotes evidence-based storytelling focused on the histories, cultures, societies and media of the Global South.