



Roma's Tommaso Baldanzi, left, and Empoli's Viktor Kovalenko in action during the Serie A soccer match between Empoli and Roma at the "Carlo Castellani - Computer Gross Arena" Stadium in Empoli, Italy. Roma won 1-0. (AP) - See Page 15

Sports



Bosaleh team crowned with the tournament cup.



The crowning of motorcycle champions at the Bahrain Superbike Championship.

Bosaleh Diwaniya wins soccer championship

KUWAIT CITY, March 10: The Al Rawda Association Ramadan Soccer Championship 2025 concluded at the Ajyal Center Sports Complex in the Social Reform Society (Al Rawda area), under the patronage of Mohammed Al Kandari, Chairman of the Board of Directors. The event was attended by Board members Adel Al Habshi and Omar Al Ansari, along with General Manager Bassam Al Badr. The championship featured the participation of Kuwait National Team

and Al Qadsia Club's international goalkeeper Captain Nawaf Al Khalidi "Al Jasoor", as well as former Kuwait National Team players, goalkeeper Musab Al Kandari, dignitaries, media representatives, and a large audience. The final match saw Bosaleh Diwaniya face off against Al Jasoor, with Bosaleh Diwaniya emerging victorious. Meanwhile, Al Jasoor was recognized as the tournament's ideal team. Tournament director Omar Al Ansa-

ri highlighted the high level of participation for the third consecutive year, emphasizing the intense competition that showcased the skill, performance, and potential of the players. He also noted the strong support from the Rawda and Hawally Cooperative Society's Board of Directors in promoting sports and youth activities, particularly for shareholders. Al Ansari stressed that engaging in sports fosters cooperation, camaraderie, and healthy competition in a dynamic sporting atmosphere.

Sheikh Sabah Dawood Al-Sabah praises Kuwaiti riders' success at Bahrain Superbike Champ'ship

MANAMA, March 10: Kuwait Motorbikes and Motorcycles Sports Club riders secured top positions at the Bahrain Superbike Championship, achieving remarkable success in two major categories during the event at the Bahrain International Circuit in Manama. Mohammed Al-Zaidan and Ali Bushehri claimed first and second place, respectively, in the 600cc category, while Saud Al-Tawra triumphed

in the 1000cc category, marking another milestone for the Kuwaiti team. Sheikh Sabah Dawood Salman Al-Sabah, the team manager of Kuwait Motorbikes and Motorcycles Club, praised the exceptional performance of the riders, highlighting their dedication to achieving the best results for Kuwaiti motorcycling. He emphasized that this success is the outcome of the athletes' hard work, skill development, and thorough preparation

for the championship. Sheikh Sabah commended the riders' determination and competitive spirit, which played a key role in this achievement. He noted that this victory not only showcases their commitment to the sport but also promotes the growth of motorcycling in Kuwait, elevating the country's reputation on the international stage. He concluded by congratulating the competitors for their outstanding performance.

Unstoppable India wins Champions Trophy



Indian players celebrate with the winners trophy after defeating New Zealand in the final cricket match of the ICC Champions Trophy at Dubai International Cricket Stadium in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. (AP)

Sharma leads chase with 76 runs

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, March 10, (AP): India won another global cricket tournament with a four-wicket victory over New Zealand in the Champions Trophy final.

Rohit Sharma led the chase with 76 runs off 83 balls and Lokesh Rahul's unbeaten 34 helped India cross the finish line on 254-6 in 49 overs to win the Champions Trophy for the third time. Half-centuries from Daryl Mitchell and Michael Bracewell earlier helped New Zealand, which won the toss and chose to bat first, put on 251-7 in its 50 overs on a slow, two-paced Dubai wicket. Sharma provided a fiery start to India's innings, with the India skipper hitting seven fours and three sixes. Hardik Pandya scored a run-a-ball 18, putting on a crucial 38 runs off 36 balls for the sixth wicket with Rahul. Sharma was named player of the match. "We played really good cricket throughout the tournament," Sharma said. "I wanted to bat in a different (aggressive) way and having batting depth gives you that freedom." It was India's 23rd win in 24 games across the last three men's ICC events stretching back to 2023 - the only loss coming against Australia in the 2023 Cricket World Cup final. India won the Twenty20 World Cup final against South Africa last year. Both sides have previously won this tournament. India's previous success came in 2013 and it was runner-up to Pakistan in 2017. It also shared the

trophy with Sri Lanka in 2002 after a rain-affected two-day final. New Zealand won the Champions Trophy (then the ICC Knockout Trophy) in 2000 - it beat India in the final at Nairobi, Kenya. It remains the only limited-overs ICC trophy in the Black Caps' cabinet. All of India's matches were played in Dubai after the Indian government refused permission for its team to go to official host Pakistan on security grounds. Sharma started with a six on the second ball, a taste of what was to come. Shubman Gill was watchful at the other end - his 31 off 50 balls helping to put on 105 in almost 19 overs with Sharma for the first wicket. Glenn Phillips got the breakthrough with yet another sensational catch at extra cover, as Gill was caught off New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner (2-46). It quickly became a double blow when Bracewell (2-28) trapped Virat Kohli lbw for one with India now at 106-2. New Zealand exerted pressure which resulted in Sharma's wicket - he was out stumped off Rachin Ravindra with the scorecard reading 122-3. Shreyas Iyer scored an invaluable 48 off 62 to push the innings ahead. He added 61 off 75 with Axar Patel (29). The game swung again when Iyer was caught by Ravindra - another brilliant take - off Santner. Patel pushed the score past 200, but then holed out off Bracewell. That brought Rahul and Pandya together with 51 needed off 51 balls - they were cautious but also took calculated risks. Pandya skied a catch close to the finish, but Rahul denied any other twist to the game as India won its second men's ICC trophy in two years. Ravindra Jadeja hit the winning boundary.

Al-Qadsiya seeks to defend advantage against Al-Nasr

By Hassan Mosa

KUWAIT CITY, March 10: Al-Qadsiya will face Al-Nasr of the UAE at 10:00 pm this at Mohammed Al-Hamad Stadium in the second leg of the Gulf Champions League semi-finals.

Al-Qadsiya secured a narrow 1-0 win in the first leg, although its performance in the second half was less dominant compared to the first. The Yellows took advantage of Al-Nasr being reduced to 10 players after striker Ali Mabkhout received a red card for a deliberate foul on Al-Qadsiya's defender, Rashid Al-Dosari, in the first half. This match is of great significance to Al-Qadsiya, as it aims to continue its strong run in the tournament and fight for its



Soulou takes part in Al-Qadsiya training session.

third Gulf Champions League title. The team organized an internal camp, with head coach Zeljko Petrovic focusing on enhancing the players' readiness and concentration. This will ensure they put forth their best effort to advance further in the competition. Libyan international Mohamed Soula, who missed the first leg due to injury, is likely to feature in this match after recovering and reaching peak fitness. Regardless of Soula's participation, Petrovic has a strong squad, including key players such as Bader Al-Mutawa, Ismail Khafi, Mehdi Berrahma, Daniel Gibola, Rashid Al-Dosari, Eid Al-Rashidi, Khaled Al-Rashidi, Khaled Ibrahim, Adhbi Shehab, Abdullah Mutawa, Abdulaziz Wadi, and Jas-

sim Al-Matar. On the other hand, Al-Nasr is determined to reverse the result and improve on its performance from the first leg, where it squandered several opportunities in the second half. German coach Alfred Schroeder has named a 23-player squad for the match, which includes Ahmed Shambih, Abdulrahman Al-Ameri, Abdulaziz Al-Ali, Gustavo Alex, Mohammed Abdulrahman, Glauber Lima, Samir Memisevic, Leroy Fer, Hussein Sadiq, Ahmed Jashk, Youssef Al-Ameri, Marwan Azrakan, Abdullah Al-Hammadi, Maid Al-Tanjji, Costin Amzar, Mateus de Oliveira, Othman Bousaid, Rashid Issa, Moussa Ndiaye, Evans Ampofo, Nasser Al-Naimi, Saleem Al-Sumaihi, and Rashid Musabah.

Kuwait's Suwaillem appointed head of Saudi Handball Referees Committee

RIYADH, March 10: The Saudi Handball Federation has appointed Kuwaiti international referee Jassim Suwaillem as the head of its referees committee, marking him as the first Kuwaiti and Gulf national to hold this prestigious position. This appointment follows Suwaillem's inclusion in the regulations revision committee, which aims to modernize systems and establish a professional and sustainable future for Saudi handball. The committee also includes Dr. Ayman Al-Rifai as head, along with Dr. Faisal Al-Obaidan, Hussein Al-Anki, Youssef Al-Mutawa, and Faisal Abu Abdullah. Previously, Suwaillem served as the head of the referees committee in the Kuwait Handball Federation. As an international referee, he has officiated numerous high-profile matches in top international and continental championships, garnering the experience and



Jassim Suwaillem

trust that led the Saudi Federation to appoint him to this key role. Additionally, Suwaillem is an international lecturer for referees. Suwaillem expressed his gratitude to the Saudi Handball Federation for the trust placed in him, pledging to collaborate with his committee colleagues to further enhance the quality of Saudi referees and elevate the standard of handball in the kingdom.