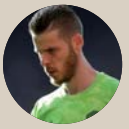
It's difficult to say something. Sorry to the fans, we will keep fighting for sure. We will come back but at the moment we are in a difficult situation.



Manchester United's David de Gea on his team's abysmal performance.

TODAY'S ACTION

TENNIS
Shanghai Masters, Round of 64: A. Rublev vs B. Coric

TENNIS
Shanghai Masters, Round of 32: Roger Federer vs Ramos-Vinolas

Lyles, Coleman target Tokyo Olympics after Doha success

AFP
DOHA



FROM LEFT: USA's Noah Lyles, Michael Rodgers, Christian Coleman and Justin Gatlin pose with their national flag after winning the men's 4x100m relay final at the IAAF World Athletics Championships Doha 2019 at the Khalifa International Stadium on Sunday.

Exit Usain Bolt, enter the United States.

As the desert dust settled on the IAAF World Athletics Championships Doha 2019 on Sunday, American sprinters were left celebrating their biggest medal haul in more than a decade.

After picking up just one gold medal in the men's sprinting events in London two years ago, the Americans headed for home with five out of a possible seven golds stowed away in their luggage.

It was the largest tally since the six sprinting golds won by the US at the 2007 championships in Osaka, a year before the dawn of Bolt's decade of dominance at the Beijing Olympics.

In Doha, the US men bagged gold in the 100m, 200m and 110m hurdles before victories in the 4x100m and 4x400m relays.

More signficantly, Doha confirmed the emergence of a new generation of US sprinters who will head to the Olympics in Tokyo next year as the men to beat.

Christian Coleman, the newly crowned 100m world champion, and Noah Lyles, the victor in the 200m, delivered performances in Doha that suggest they are capable of dominating for years to come.

Coleman, who narrowly avoided being banned from the championships after missing three drugs tests in a year, became the sixth fastest man in history with his 100m win in 9.76 seconds.

Lyles, meanwhile, surged to 200m gold in 19.83sec.

Both Coleman, 23, and Lyles, 22, have youth on their side, and are preparing to take their rivalry to a heightened level next season.

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After restricting themselves to one individual event in Doha, Coleman and Lyles have vowed to chase a 100m-200m double in Tokyo.

"We're both competitive and young and we're carrying the torch for USA sprinting," Coleman said of his rivalry with Lyles.

"I think we make each other better. When I'm working hard every day, I know he's down there in Florida grinding.

"So whenever we match up it's going to be fireworks. I'm looking forward to our rivalry in the future."

Lyles, meanwhile, said that reports of a rift with Coleman earlier this season had been overblown.

"We're very competitive and very talented and we want to go out there and make the USA the best country in the world," Lyles said.

"So every time we step on the track, whether it's against each other or together, we're going to give our best 100 percent."

That sense of shared determination was in view on Saturday, when Coleman and Lyles led the American men to victory in the 4x100m in the second fastest time in the history.

The US has a dismal record in what in theory should be one of their strongest events, and had not won the relay gold since 2007.

"We broke a generational curse today and we're going to keep that going for years to come," Lyles wrote on *Twitter* after the win.

With personal bests in the 100m and 200m that are faster than Bolt's over each distance at the same age, the charismatic Lyles looks the best bet to fill the vacuum created by the Jamaican icon's retirement.

"This time last year I'd only just started running," said Lyles after his 200m win. "Think of that."

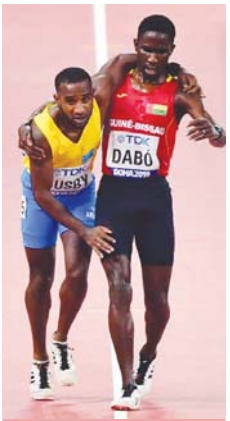
"But don't say I'm the new Bolt. I'm me. If you like me, I'll happily entertain you. It's my time."

The 37-year-old Justin Gatlin, meanwhile, says he may stick around a bit longer as Coleman and Lyles' rivalry heats up.

Gatlin, who celebrated the first relay gold of his career on Saturday, was left impressed at how the likes of Coleman and Lyles responded in the 4x100m final after narrowly escaping disqualification in Friday's semi-finals.

"I take my hat off to my team-mates, for being brave, and not feeling that stigma of Team USA always dropping the stick, or not finishing, or something always happening or going wrong," said Gatlin.

"They broke that curse. And I'm grateful for these guys to give me that gift tonight."



Guinea-Bissau's Braima Suncar Dabo (right) helps Aruba's Jonathan Busby to the finish line during the men's 5,000m heats during the IAAF World Championships Doha 2019.

Shortlist announced for International Fair Play Award

IAAF
DOHA

Following the conclusion of the IAAF World Athletics Championships Doha 2019, four moments have been shortlisted for the International Fair Play award.

Members of the International Fair Play Committee (CIFP) and the IAAF formed a jury to decide on the shortlist.

This week fans can cast their votes for the shortlisted moment that they feel best exemplifies fair play. These votes will be combined with the votes from the jury to determine three finalists for the Fair Play Award. The winner will be revealed at the IAAF Athletics Awards in Monaco on 23 November.

1. Armand Duplantis, Piotr Lisek and Sam Kendricks: The pole vault medallists showed great camaraderie and respect for one another throughout the competition and during their celebrations.

2. Sandi Morris: Despite missing out on the gold medal, the first thing the US pole vaulter did was congratulate the winner, Anzhelika Sidorova, showing genuine delight in her success.

3. Dina Asher-Smith: In two separate races during the championships, the British sprinter went back to help injured competitors.

4 Braima Suncar Dabo: On the final lap of his 5000m heat, the runner from Guinea Bissau helped carry fellow runner Jonathan Busby to the finish line when he was on the brink of collapsing.

To vote, head to the respective posts on twitter and retweet your favourite moment. The CIFP was established more than 50 years ago to promote the principles of fair play in sport – fair competition, respect, friendship, team spirit, equality and sport without doping.

It honours those who respect the written and unwritten rules of sport, which include integrity, solidarity, tolerance, care, excellence and joy, and who set an example for others, on and off the field. At the IAAF World Championships alone, eight awards have been handed out since 2003.

Spanish high jumper Ruth Beitia, who consoled Italy's Alessia Trost after she failed to qualify for the high jump final at the 2017 IAAF World Championships at the end of a difficult year, was the latest recipient of an award.

Watchdog will take a close look at USADA report into Salazar ban: Coe

REUTERS
DOHA



Sebastian Coe during a press conference on Sunday in Doha.

The athletics watchdog (AIU) will take a close interest in the 140-page report detailing the US Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) decision to ban leading coach Alberto Salazar for four years, the sport's global head Sebastian Coe said.

USADA said Salazar's punishment was for "orchestrating and facilitating prohibited doping conduct" as head coach of the Nike Oregon Project (NOP), a camp designed primarily to develop US endurance athletes.

American Salazar has denied any wrongdoing and said he would appeal while Nike has said it will stand by him.

Nike has denied any role in administering performance-enhancing drugs and said in a statement on Tuesday that it does not condone the use of banned substances.

"We have the AIU (Athletics Integrity Unit), it clearly will take a big interest in the findings from USADA," said Coe, who is president of the International Association of Athletics Federations, adding he had not read the whole report himself.

"I am entirely comfortable and very confident that the AIU will want to look at the whole case and want to think about the implications."

The IAAF's efforts to separate itself from anti-doping and corruption and rebuild athlete and fan confidence in the sport led to the setting up of the AIU in 2017. "The AIU are permanently vigilant and there are tests that are intelligence-led," said Coe.

"It is important that the unit is given the opportunity and the time to be vigilant and acts when it needs, but we also have to be protective of athletes' reputations, so it needs a sensible proportion of balance." Several athletes participating at the world athletics championships in Doha, which finished on Sunday, train with the Nike Oregon Project, including gold medallists Sifan Hassan of the Netherlands and Donavan Brazier of the US.

There has been no suggestion of any wrongdoing by 1,500 and 10,000 metres world champion Hassan or 800m winner Brazier.

But Coe said it was inevitable there would be speculation around the performances of Hassan after her unique double.

"Sadly, it is the world we live in," he said.

"It is inevitable that outstanding performance, given the nature of trust, is permanently in question. I think we have to be careful about how we draw judgement on the performance."

After her 1,500m triumph on Saturday, Hassan said she was winning races well before she joined the NOP in 2016.

"It was a very tough week and I had a lot of things in my head but I have a good manager and he really supported me,"

Hassan said. "I show the world I am a clean athlete."

Turkey returns empty-handed from Worlds

ANATOLIA
ANKARA

Turkey was unable to bag any medals in the 2019 IAAF World Athletics Championships which ended on Sunday, while the US topped the medal list.

Twenty athletes on Turkey's national team competed in the event, held in Qatar's capital Doha.

After having come in fifth twice and sixth once in previous games, Turkey ranks 35th overall among 209 countries that have competed.

This year the US national team racked up the most medals, with 14 golds, 11 silvers, and four bronzes.

Kenya followed with five golds, two silvers, and four bronze medals, while Jamaica came in third with three golds, five silvers, and three bronzes.

The 2019 IAAF World Athletics Championships ran from September 27 to October 6 at the Khalifa International Stadium.

It was the first showpiece event of athletics that was held in the Middle East.

Manateq Qatar Cross-Country Rally to start FIA World Cup

THE PENINSULA
DOHA


Qatar's Nasser Saleh Al Attiyah in action at the MQCCR in February 2019.


Reinaldo Varela in action at this year's MQCCR_

The FIA Cross-Country Commission has now approved the provisional calendars for the 2020 FIA World Cup for Cross-Country Rallies and the Manateq Qatar Cross-Country Rally (MQCCR) will be the opening round of the series for a second successive year.

Organised by the Qatar Motor and Motorcycle Federation (QMMF) every year, the event will take place on February 22nd-27th, four weeks after the finish of the Dakar Rally in Saudi Arabia.

Officials at the QMMF have put together a generous concessions package to attract international competitors to join rivals from other GCC countries and the host nation.

A delegation from the QMMF recently visited both Baja Spain Aragón and Baja Poland to meet potential teams and gain feedback in advance of the event in 2020.

The QMMF will cover return shipping costs from Genoa or Rotterdam to Doha, details showed yesterday.

There will also be free shipping for all Dakar competitors keen to tackle one of the most demanding rounds of the FIA World Cup, which has a reputation for slick organisation, demanding navigation and varied off-road terrain across the length and breadth of the State of Qatar. In addition to shipping concessions, car crews will be eligible for 600 litres of petrol, free WiFi, preparation and warehousing facilities, electricity within the service park at the Losail Sports Arena, a car washing area, free drinking water, a sleeping area and a range of entertainment activities.

Competitors will also be offered prize monies in the various categories, a night's hotel accommodation, complimentary food in the bivouac restaurant, free visas (where applicable) and access to HD television footage from QMMF TV.

Regulations and entry forms will be available for download from www.qatarcrosscountry.com and www.qmmf.com from December 1st, 2019, QMMF said. For further information about the 2020 Qatar Cross-Country Rally, interested parties can contact the Qatar Motor and Motor Cycle Federation (QMMF), Losail Circuit, PO Box 8708, Doha, Qatar, Tel: + 974 443 79885, Fax: + 974 443 79732, E-mail: info@qmmf.com.qa and website: www.qatarcross-country.com.


QMMF President Abdulrahman Al Mannai

The marque of Marquez: Six-time world champion hailed by MotoGP greats

AFP
BANGKOK


Repsol Honda Team Spanish rider Marc Marquez celebrates on the podium after winning the MotoGP race for the Thailand Grand Prix at Buriram International Circuit in Buriram on Sunday.

Tributes have poured in to the unstoppable Marc Marquez with the Spaniard hailed as "incredible" and "unbelievable" after he clinched his sixth MotoGP crown and eighth world title overall on Sunday.

MotoGP rivals, Marquez's own brother and Formula One greats joined a chorus of congratulations for the daring 26-year-old who dived under Fabio Quartararo on the final bend to win the Thailand MotoGP and seal the title in a pulsating last-lap duel.

The win gave him an insurmountable lead over closest rival Andrea Dovizioso, who was gracious despite another season in Marquez's shadow. "We can speak and analyse all the things but at the end if you check his score it's something unbelievable," the Ducati rider told *MotoGP.com*.

Marquez has dominated the sport. Since 2013 he has only failed to win the world championship once -- in 2015. The 2019 title is his fourth straight and Marquez described this year as his "best" season ever. No one is disputing his assessment.

British rider Cal Crutchlow pointed out that Marquez has finished first or second in every race apart from one -- the Grand Prix of The Americas when a mechanical problem caused him to crash when leading on the ninth lap in Austin. "He's an incredible talent," said Crutchlow, who is ninth in the standings. "I think he should just retire and give everyone else a chance," he joked.

Marquez is from a racing family and his younger brother Alex finished fifth in the Moto2 race in Buriram and is leading the class standings.

If there is a sibling rivalry it was hard to see in Alex's endearing tweet about his brother's achievement.

"Once again you leave us all speechless!" he said on his official account which showed a photo of the two brothers smiling after the win. In spite of your eight championships, you'll still be the 'little twerp' brother that you are." With six premier-class titles, Marquez surpasses Australian legend Mick Doohan. He trails only Italian great Valentino Rossi, who won the last of his seven championships in 2009, and Giacomo Agostini, whose record eighth came in 1975. Rossi predicted he will break both.

"I don't think he'll struggle to reach nine," he told GPOne.com.

Spanish Formula One double world champion Fernando Alonso tweeted his congratulations, calling Marquez a "phenomenon."

Formula One driver Pierre Gasly, who attended the race before heading to Suzuka for next weekend's Japanese Grand Prix, tweeted: "What a race, what a battle in the last lap."

French rookie Quartararo, 20, led most of the way but was left in awe of Marquez. "It's just incredible what he achieved, what he does with the bike," Quartararo told *MotoGP.com*.

"He will be there for a long time."


Sri Lanka's spinner Wanindu Hasaranga (right) celebrates with team-mates after the dismissal of Pakistan's captain Sarfraz Ahmed during the second Twenty20 International cricket match between Pakistan and Sri Lanka in Lahore yesterday.

SCOREBOARD

Sri Lanka	
D Gunathilaka c Sarfaraz b Wasim	15
A Fernando run out	8
B Rajapaksa c Zaman b Shadab	77
S Jayasuriya run out	34
D Shanaka not out	27
M Bhanuka run out	0
I Udana b Riaz	8
W Hasaranga not out	2
Extras: (B 1, LB 6, W 4)	11
Total: (for six wkts)	**182**

Fall of wickets: 1-16, 2-41, 3-135, 4-142, 5-145, 6-155

Bowling: Wasim 4-0-27-1, Amir 4-0-40-0 (2w), Riaz 4-0-31-1, Shadab Khan 4-0-38-1 (1w), Hasnain 4-0-39-0 (1w),

Pakistan	
Babar Azam b Pradeep	3
Fakhar Zaman b Rajitha	6
Ahmed Shehzad b Hasaranga	13
Sarfaraz Ahmed b Hasaranga	26
Umar Akmal lbw b Hasaranga	0
Asif Ali b Pradeep	29
Imad Wasim lbw b Udana	47
Wahab Riaz c Bhanuka b Pradeep	7
Shadab Khan c Shanaka b Udana	0
Mohammad Amir not out	5
M Hasnain c Hasaranga b Pradeep	1
Extras: (LB2, W 8)	10
Total: (all out; 19 overs)	**147**

Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-11, 3-51, 4-51, 5-52, 6-127, 7-136, 8-136, 9-145

Bowling: Rajitha 3-0-11-1 (2w), Pradeep 4-0-25-4 (1w), Udana 4-0--38-2 (1w), Hasaranga 4-0-38-3, Sandakan 4-0-33-0 (4w)

Result: Sri Lanka won by 35 runs

Player-of-the-Match: Bhanuka Rajapaksa

Not an easy task to come to Pakistan and beat the No. 1 side but the confidence from the coaches helped a lot. Beating the No. 1 side, it would take it any day. It means a lot to me.
Bhanuka Rajapaksa, The Man of the Match

We didn't play good cricket. Congrats to Sri Lanka, who batted, bowled and fielded better than us. A missed a couple of run-out opportunities that could have changed the game. They had a good partnership in the middle overs, we lost five wickets in the first ten overs. If you don't take wickets in the middle overs, you cannot stop the flow of runs.
Sarfaraz Ahmed, Pakistan captain

Sri Lanka rout top-ranked Pakistan by 35 runs in second T20

AP
LAHORE

Sri Lanka's inexperienced team earned another emphatic 35-run victory over top-ranked Pakistan in the second Twenty20 yesterday for an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

Bhanuka Rajapaksa, playing in only his second Twenty20, smashed 77 off 48 balls in Sri Lanka's strong total of 182-6 after captain Dasun Shanaka won the toss and opted to bat.

Leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga (3-38) then took three wickets in four balls and Isuru Udana provided the perfect finish by grabbing 4-25 as Pakistan was bowled out for 147 in 19 overs. Imad Wasim top scored with 47 off 29 balls but his partnership of 75 with Asif Ali (29) was not enough to stop Sri Lanka from registering another convincing win.

Earlier, left-handed Rajapaksa hit six sixes and four boundaries and dominated a 94-run fourth-wicket stand with Shehan Jayasuriya, who made 34. Shanaka propelled Sri Lanka's total beyond Pakistan's reach by smashing 31 off 15 balls. Sri Lanka won the first match by 64 runs and the final game of the series will be played on Wednesday.

Bayern's 1st loss of the season exposes old problems

AP
BERLIN

Bayern Munich's first loss of the season has exposed old problems that a 7-2 rout of Tottenham had helped cover up only days before.

After producing the seven-goal gala in London in the Champions League on Tuesday, Bayern might have expected more of the same against modest Hoffenheim in the Bundesliga on Saturday.

But Hoffenheim had other ideas and took advantage of Bayern's weaknesses in a 2-1 victory against the seven-time defending champions. Sargis Adamyan scored twice in Hoffenheim's first ever victory in Munich.

"I'm annoyed that we couldn't build on the euphoria, the good vibes," Bayern coach Niko Kovac said.

Bayern looked lethargic and complacent, perhaps too comfortable in relying on a moment of individual brilliance from the likes of Robert Lewandowski, Philippe Coutinho or Serge Gnabry, who himself nabbed four goals against Tottenham.

Lewandowski maintained his record of scoring in every league game so far, a record mark of 11 goals in eight games, but it wasn't enough to make up for the mistakes that culminated with the team's first loss.

Corentin Tolisso lost the ball in midfield in the buildup to Adamyan's first goal of the match, while Bayern's defense failed to close him down before the Armenian striker scored his second in the game.

"We made too many mistakes and never put our opponents under pressure," Kovac said.

With the exception of Thiago Alcantara coming in for the injured David Alaba, Kovac started with the same players who had impressed against Tottenham, leaving Thomas Müller on the bench for the fifth game in a row.

"If need be, he will certainly get his minutes," Kovac said of Müller, who came on for the last half-hour and set up Lewandowski's equalizer.

Müller was the first player to leave Bayern's stadium after the defeat.

"Nothing to say, as the English say," he said.

England announce Silverwood as new coach

AP
LONDON

After four years with an Australian in charge, England's cricket team is back in the hands of an Englishman.

Chris Silverwood, who played six Tests for England over six years around the turn of the century, was the rather low-profile choice to replace Trevor Bayliss as head coach of the national teams yesterday.

After Bayliss, who improved England's one-day fortunes so much that the team won the Cricket World Cup for the first time this year, the England and Wales Cricket Board could have hired another coach from overseas in former South Africa international Gary Kirsten.

Yet, Silverwood proved to be the standout candidate because of his knowledge of the inner workings of the England team, and his rapport with the players through his role as its bowling coach for the past two years.

"He is somebody we know well, but it is his intimate understanding of our structures and systems and his close relationships with Test captain Joe Root and white-ball captain Eoin Morgan that will help us develop our plans for the next few years," England managing director Ashley Giles said.

"He has performed exceptionally well during his role as an assistant coach and has the ultimate respect of the players that have worked with him."

Giles said the 44-year-old Silverwood demonstrated a "clear understanding and strategy of how both the red and white-ball teams need to evolve," with critics of Bayliss saying the Australian focused too much on the shorter formats during his time in charge.

England won the World Cup this year, but failed to regain the Ashes from Australia after drawing a home series 2-2.

That marked the end of Bayliss' contract with England and he has since agreed to join Indian Premier League franchise Sunrisers Hyderabad next year.

"I aim to continue the great work that has been done over the past five years and build on our future, especially in the Test arena," Silverwood said yesterday.

Silverwood, who played six Tests and seven ODIs from 1996-2002, won the English County Championship as Essex coach in 2017 before joining the national team's backroom staff.

His first matches in charge of England will be in the tour of New Zealand starting on November 1.

"He has some detailed thoughts on what it will take to win the Ashes in Australia and win major ICC white-ball tournaments," Giles said. "Over the past couple of years, he has been an integral member of developing the teams' culture and emerging a cohesive relationship across the team's management group."



England's Jofra Archer (right) talks to bowling coach Chris Silverwood during nets in this July 31, 2019, file photo.

Kirsten, who has previously led South Africa and India to No. 1 in the Test rankings, held talks with Giles and ECB chief executive Tom Harrison but was overlooked in favour of someone who also knows the domestic county scene better.

"Ultimately," Giles said of Silverwood, "his highest quality is that he is a winner and that will be an important part of the job as we look to strive to become the most respected team in the world across all formats."



People play cricket in a traffic-free road, blocked by climate change activists from the group Extinction Rebellion, on Parliament Square in central London yesterday. Extinction Rebellion has scheduled non-violent protests chiefly in Europe, North America and Australia over the next fortnight. Cricket remained in the headlines throughout the English summer as England won the ICC World Cup and then played a 2-2 Ashes draw in the Test series.

Battered South Africa need the Guardiola touch, says coach

AFP
VISAKHAPATNAM

Cricket coach Enoch Nkwe wants to channel the philosophy of title-laden football manager Pep Guardiola to turn the suffering South African side into a winning force.

Following India's 203-run mauling of his team in the first Test on Sunday, captain Faf du Plessis and Nkwe pleaded for patience as the squad rebuilds after Dale Steyn's and Hashim Amla's retirement.

Nkwe, 36, said he wants to see South Africa follow Guardiola's innovative style and produce a brave team -- but he warned it would take time.

"What I want is this team to have the courage, in certain situations, to really back themselves," he said.

"I suppose that every coach that comes in has a different philosophy."

Nkwe has only an interim contract with South Africa so far, and was appointed for the Indian tour.

He caught the attention of the South African public and national federation after making a spectacular start as a coach, winning the four-day and T20 titles with the Highveld Lions in one year.

Nkwe said South Africa must "be able to control sessions a lot longer for period of time with both bat or ball.

"But also be a lot smarter and be very innovative in certain situations."

He said he was looking forward to how his team recovers from the past setbacks, and responds to each match.

The team put up a spirited fight before Mohammed Shami's 5-35 on the final day dealt a devastating blow to the tourists in Visakhapatnam.

Opening batsman Dean Elgar stood out with his 160 in South Africa's first innings score of 431.

Nkwe said Guardiola has a knack of improving systems, and admires his total passion for football -- something that resonated with his love for cricket.

"I feel I have so much to offer to the game, especially back in our country."

Nkwe's dream was to make a difference in people's lives, he said, and feels now he can.

"I will keep driving forward to ensure that the team keeps growing, keeps believing in themselves that they can achieve greater heights."

Nkwe, who played only 42 first class games in the South African provinces before injury cut short his career, said the challenge of touring India will define the team's character in the coming years.

"My biggest focus is to help this team create a strong foundation. We have lot of work behind the scenes (so) that this team grows in the next four years," he said.

"Ultimately it's about the big picture and we need to be patient with players that might take a bit of time to produce the type of performances we are looking forward to.

"And this is a great place to see that. What sort of character of the team we have and what sort of areas we need to really look at and look to rectify as quickly as possible."

With the second Test starting in Pune on Thursday, Nkwe has some

Steve Smith, David Warner return to Sheffield Shield

AP
SYDNEY

Australia batsmen Steve Smith and David Warner will play their first domestic Sheffield Shield matches in almost two years when they turn out from Thursday for New South Wales against Queensland.

Neither player has appeared in a four-day match Shield since November, 2017 when both also appeared for New South Wales against Queensland.

The pair missed all of the 2018-19 season while serving 12-month suspensions for their role in the March, 2018 ball-tampering incident in South Africa.

They were named yesterday to play for New South Wales in the first round of the 2019-2020 season along with Australia teammate Mitchell Starc.

Smith and Warner returned to Test cricket during the Ashes series in England in August and September.

Meanwhile it was announced that fast bowlers Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood will be rested for a few more weeks following their workloads in the Ashes, but Test captain Tim Paine is fit to start the Sheffield Shield season for Tasmania after recovering from the broken thumb he sustained at The Oval.

Indian pacer Shami shows class on final day once again

REUTERS
NEW DELHI

Fast bowlers usually play second fiddle to their slow-bowling counterparts on the final day of Tests on the sub-continent but Mohammed Shami's performance in India's Test win over South Africa in Visakhapatnam on Sunday told a different story.

It has been almost a tradition for quicks to begin proceedings before retreating into the background to watch the spinners wreak havoc on fifth day dustbowls in the region.

The lack of carry on such tracks limits a quick's scope for success, which often comes either by reverse swing or through a brain-fade moment by the batsmen.

On Sunday, Shami demonstrated how a quick can succeed on such tracks, combining his reverse-swinging ability with a relentless attack on the stumps.

The bustling right-arm quick has already emerged as a second innings specialist and he burnished that reputation with figures of 5-35 against Faf du Plessis's side.

"Shami has been a strike bowler for us in the second innings consistently now," India captain Virat Kohli told broadcaster STAR Sports after they went 1-0 up in the three-Test series.

"If you see all his four-five-wicket hauls, they come in the second innings invariably when the team needs it. The ball is reversing a bit, that's his strength."

Shami now has three five-wicket hauls in the second innings since 2018, most by any bowler, and four of his five South African victims were dismissed bowled.

One of them was du Plessis, who shoulder-armed to a delivery and watched in horror as his off-stump went cartwheeling.

India opener Rohit Sharma said it was just reward for the quick, who offered no respite to the batsmen.

"He makes the batsman play all the balls, which is slightly tough on that kind of pitch," said Rohit, whose twin centuries in his first match as a test opener earned him man-of-the-match award.

"When you know you have to play all six balls, and the pitch at times, as we have seen, is doing something from the crack, or staying low at times...the batsman doesn't really know what's coming next, because he (Shami) can swing it both ways."

Shami said it took more than just his ability to reverse-swing the ball.

"It's not easy to bowl when you know reverse-swing is happening," said the 29-year-old.

"You need to pitch it in the right area, you need to make sure that the ball is just around off stump, so that it comes and hits the middle stump. Otherwise sometimes you can drag (the ball onto pads) and leak a lot of runs."

Shami hails from Uttar Pradesh, but plays first-class cricket for Bengal from where he was noticed.

He had played only 15 first-class and 15 List A games when he was drafted into India's ODI team to play Pakistan in Delhi in January 2013.



An umpire carries the broken stump as Indian cricketer Mohammed Shami (centre) walks away after the dismissal of South African cricketer Dane Piedt during the fifth day's play of the first Test match between India and South Africa in Visakhapatnam on Sunday.

Qatar and Jersey to play three-match T20 Series in Doha

THE PENINSULA
DOHA

Qatar and Jersey will clash in what may be a thrilling three-match Twenty20 International Series at the Asian Town Cricket Stadium in Industrial Area next week.

This is the second T20 international series Qatar are figuring in after a visit by Kuwait in July.

The Qatar Cricket Association and its President Yousef Jeham Al Kuwari are always pushing hard for creating opportunities and exposures for the national teams so that they can not only play tough but also keep their level consistently high.

This tour by Jersey is just an extension of the efforts by the QCA towards providing the national T20 side a competitive chance to test itself before the future international assignments.

Kuwari said in the press release, "We're extremely delighted that the Jersey team accepted our invitation to visit us and play the Twenty20 International Series. Both the teams are competitive and will use this opportunity to reinforce their respective teams."

QCA Operations Manager Manzoor Ahmad said in the press release: "We're ready to welcome the Jersey team whole-heartedly. The series has been planned to keep our national team active and battle ready for the future events that we're going to play.

"Series such as this one allows teams not only the valuable practice but also a chance to test your players in variety to situations during matches. From that point of view, the Jersey tour is going to be very important for us," he added.

Under the captaincy of Charles Perchard, the 14-player Jersey will play the first match on October 9 at 7 pm. The second match is scheduled on October 10 at 4 pm, while the third and final match will start on October 11 at 7 pm.

Iqbal Hussain Chaudhry will lead the Qatar team, while Mohammad Rizlan has been made the Vice-Captain. Gul Khan Jadoon is the Team Manager and Shahid Mahboob is the Head Coach.

T20I SERIES SCHEDULE

(At Asian Town Cricket Stadium)
October 9: Starting Time 07:00pm
October 10: Starting Time 4:00pm
October 11: Starting Time 07:00pm


Ole Gunnar Solskjaer

Manchester United sinking fast as Solskjaer flounders

AFP
LONDON

How far will Manchester United sink? Just two points above the relegation places, the one-time powerhouses of English football are without an away win since March and are enduring their worst start to a league season for 30 years.

Old Trafford has witnessed a decline in fortunes since Alex Ferguson stepped down in 2013.

Under Ferguson, United finished in the top three every year from 1992 until 2013, winning 13 league titles. In the six seasons since, the Red Devils have finished in the top four just twice.

But while they kept their heads above water in the immediate aftermath of the Scot's departure, winning a handful of cups and finishing second under Jose Mourinho, they are now in the middle of a full-blown crisis under beleaguered boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

Mourinho, speaking a few weeks after his rancorous departure from Old Trafford last year, spoke about how taking the club to second in the table in 2017/18 was one of his best achievements. Eyebrows were raised as Solskjaer oversaw a dramatic turnaround in fortunes during his caretaker spell in charge, but the wheels started to come off towards the end of last season.

United's 1-0 defeat at Newcastle on Sunday left them languishing in 12th spot in the Premier League -- an incredible 15 points behind leaders Liverpool after just eight games.

Goalkeeper David de Gea apologised to United supporters, saying it was the toughest time he had experienced since moving to Old Trafford in 2011.

"It's difficult to say something. Sorry to the fans, we will keep fighting for sure," he told *Sky Sports*. "We will come back but at the moment we are in a difficult situation."

United are woefully short of midfield spark and clinical finishers. Just two goals in their past five games is part of a longer-term trend, with Solskjaer's men scoring more than once in a game just three times in their past 23 matches.

The risk in allowing forwards Romelu Lukaku and Alexis Sanchez to depart to Inter Milan without signing a replacement has massively backfired, with a out-of-sorts Marcus Rashford shouldering the attacking burden alone in the absence of the injured Anthony Martial. Over-reliant on a crop of raw youngsters, Solskjaer pointed to a spate of injuries after the Newcastle defeat but said it was not an excuse for their lame display.

United have spent hundreds of millions of pounds under four different managers since Ferguson's departure and have the highest wage bill in the Premier League, but are still miles behind rivals Liverpool and Manchester City.

Former United defender Gary Neville said the club's hierarchy should take responsibility for the mess, saying they were getting the pain "they deserve" for poor decisions at board level related to recruitment and managerial policy.

Last month executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward, himself in the fans' firing line along with American owners the Glazers, pledged his faith in Solskjaer and the Old Trafford hierarchy will be wary of making yet another managerial change.

But since the Norwegian was appointed permanently in late March, United have won just 17 points in 16 Premier league matches, the fourth-worst tally among the 17 ever-present teams in that time.

United remain one of the richest and biggest clubs in the world but their lustre is rapidly fading.

Under Alex Ferguson, United finished in the top three every year from 1992 until 2013, winning 13 league titles. In the six seasons since, the Red Devils have finished in the top four just twice.

Old Trafford has witnessed a decline in fortunes since Ferguson stepped down in 2013.

United's 1-0 defeat at Newcastle on Sunday left them languishing in 12th spot in the Premier League -- an incredible 15 points behind leaders Liverpool after just eight games.

Brazil's great Cafu lauds Qatar 2022 preparations

QNA
DOHA

Former Brazil captain and two-time FIFA World Cup winner Cafu **(pictured)** has said that Qatar will offer its guests an extraordinary experience at the 2022 World Cup, which will be the most unique in the history of the tournament.

In an interview to the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy (SC) website, Cafu said: "The world can expect a fantastic tournament! I have never seen such preparation before as that is being done for 2022. I've been fortunate enough to visit Qatar on a number of occasions now and the progress and speed of change is like something I have never seen before.

"The stadiums, transportation and infrastructure that's being built is unlike anything else I have ever seen. I'm sure it will make for a memorable experience in 2022 for all those who attend. Every World Cup is different in its own way, but I strongly believe Qatar's will be the most unique tournament we've ever seen - everything is so different from previous editions of the World Cup, it will make for something very special. Of that I have no doubt."

Cafu added: "The World Cup in Qatar will be unique in many ways. This will be the first tournament in an Arab country. Being in a smaller area, stadiums, teams and fans will be closer to each other than ever before. The visitors will arrive right in the center of all celebrations with short commutes between matches, no air travel and the comfort of an amazing infrastructure that's being prepared. It will be fantastic."



Cafu said: "As well as the climate - which I know will be around 25c at that time of year and perfect for playing and watching football - I think the fans will enjoy something totally unique in 2022. And as well as the short distances and no mid-tournament air travel required, fans will be able to go to many more games than they would at other tournaments - it will have an 'Olympics' feel to it, where everyone is together in one city or area.

"Fans may watch their nation in the afternoon and then in the evening go and watch two other national teams play - this has never really been possible before!"

He praised the hospitality of Qataris and said: "The local people are extremely kind. Everyone I met has been warm, polite and from what I can tell, passionate about football and really proud of hosting the World Cup."

Cafu played as a defender for the Brazil national team. With 142 appearances, he is the most internationally capped Brazilian player of all time.

He represented his nation in four FIFA World Cups between 1994 and 2006, and is the only player to have appeared in three consecutive World Cup finals, winning the 1994 and 2002 editions of the tournament.

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The local people are extremely kind. Everyone I met has been warm, polite and from what I can tell, passionate about football and really proud of hosting the World Cup.

Liverpool in position to end title drought

AFP
LONDON

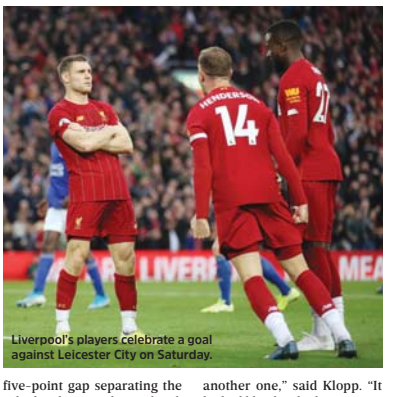
Liverpool have lived through enough near misses in 30 years not to take anything for granted in October, but an eight-point lead in the Premier League gives Jurgen Klopp's men a golden opportunity to end that long wait.

The European champions came agonisingly close to fulfilling their title dreams in May, losing out to Manchester City by just one point, despite posting the third-highest points tally in top-flight English football history, with 97.

But they bounced back quickly to lift the Champions League in June and have shot out of the traps with eight straight league wins to take a commanding lead.

Liverpool have not always shone this season. Their past three league wins have come by a solitary goal, but they have shown the tenacity and hunger to get the job done at the same time as an injury-hit City, going for their third title in a row, have lost their edge.

High-flying Leicester's visit to Anfield on Saturday offered City hope they could cut the five-point gap separating the sides heading into the weekend.


Liverpool's players celebrate a goal against Leicester City on Saturday.

Deep into stoppage time, the Foxes seemed set to do the champions a favour with the sides locked at 1-1, until Sadio Mane tumbled in the box and James Milner coolly slotted away a 95th-minute penalty.

"They didn't look for a second like a team who won so many games that they don't have the desire anymore to win another one," said Klopp. "It looked like they had never won a game before and I love that fact."

A day later, City failed to find the same kind of response as Wolves emerged from the Etihad 2-0 victors after soaking up the hosts' pressure and hitting relentlessly on the counter-attack.

City's defensive problems without the injured Aymeric Laporte were ruthlessly exposed as Wolves missed three glorious first-half chances before finally landing a blow with two Adama Traore goals in the final 10 minutes.

Slack defending also cost Pep Guardiola's men in a 3-2 defeat at newly promoted Norwich last month and the fear for City is that the gap to Liverpool will only grow over the coming months.

Defender Laporte will not be back until after the New Year and City may have to act quickly in the transfer market in January after failing to fill the void left by former captain Vincent Kompany's departure at the end of last season.

But two seasons of near-perfection have emboldened Guardiola to believe that anything is still possible.

"I know these guys, they can still do it," said the Catalan coach on Sunday.

"We are in October and there's a long way to go."

The sides still have to face each other twice, offering City the chance to eat into that gap.

Five times Liverpool have finished second since they last won a top-flight title in 1989/90.


Wales' players take part in a training session in Oita yesterday.

Wales get back to work against Fiji after lay-off

REUTERS
OITA

A relaxed and confident Wales have been an island of calm amid the maelstrom of a World Cup as they gradually close their yawning gap between pool matches, but it's back to work tomorrow when they take on Fiji in Oita.

Since fending off Australia in Pool D's heavyweight clash on September 29, Warren Gatland's side have had eight days to decompress, even as rivals have toiled and drama unfolded on pitches around Japan.

Unbeaten after two matches with their top pool foe subdued, the Six Nations champions can afford to stop and smell the roses, with victory in one of their last two games against Fiji or Georgia assuring them of a quarter-final berth.

Wins in both would naturally be preferable as they would guarantee the Welsh the pool's top spot and a potentially easier route through the knockout rounds.

With that in mind, Gatland has named a near full-strength team, making only two back row changes from the starting 15 that helped set up the epic 29-25 win over the Wallabies at Tokyo Stadium.

The Flying Fijians are no slouches, after all, and they head into the match with proper momentum from their 45-10 thrashing of Georgia, which followed a disappointing loss to Australia and a major shock by Uruguay.

Welsh fans have another reason to feel on edge, however.

Many harbour bitter memories of the 2007 World Cup in France where the Fijians upset Wales 38-34 in one of the most thrilling matches in the tournament's history.

The 'nightmare in Nantes' saw Wales eliminated while putting Fiji through to their second World Cup quarter-final and first since 1987.

Japan has already produced a couple of boilovers, with the hosts' win over Ireland chief among them, so Wales' staff have been on high alert for complacency creeping in.

"It highlighted what Fijian rugby is all about," Wales assistant coach Stephen Jones said of the 2007 stunner.

"Give them space and time and they move the ball well and have an offloading game and put you under pressure.

"They did that day and scored some wonderful tries," he said.

In a huge boost for the Welsh, flyhalf Dan Biggar has recovered from the head injury sustained against Australia and will start in the 10 jersey.

He was instrumental in getting Wales off to a flying start against the Wallabies, slotting a drop goal in the opening minute before he was forced off the field near the half-hour mark.

Gatland said he wants Wales to produce another quick start to dent the Fijians' confidence, lest they settle, build momentum and run away with the game with a feast of tries.

"It is important that we start well on Wednesday and hopefully take a little bit of that excitement away from Fiji," Gatland told reporters on Monday.

"They are dangerous, so we've got to make sure we shut their space down and shut down their time on their ball."

Scotland playing for World Cup future against Russia

REUTERS
HAMAMATSU

Scotland are playing for their World Cup future over the next six days and coach Gregor Townsend has been at pains to remind his players they need to ensure they do not take their eyes off their match against Russia tomorrow.

Townsend's side sit third in Pool A on five points, behind Japan (14) and Ireland (11) and need bonus point victories against both Russia and the tournament hosts on Sunday in Yokohama to advance to the knockout stages.

The clash with the Bears kicks off at Shizuoka Stadium at 4.15 p.m. (0715 GMT) on Wednesday and the short turnaround to the clash with Japan necessitated Townsend making 14 changes from the side that beat Samoa 34-0 on Sept. 30.

The former Scotland flyhalf said that he expected the side to concentrate on winning the Russia match, then the entire squad would focus on Japan.

"It's all about Russia and we need to get a bonus point," Townsend told reporters in Hamamatsu yesterday. "If we don't get a bonus point then our challenge against Japan becomes even more difficult.

"If we don't win against Russia we are out of the tournament. It's important we build on the momentum we built against Samoa."

Loose forward John Barclay will captain the team against Russia, with Darcy Graham the only survivor from the starting side that beat Samoa.

As if to reinforce his point about ensuring they beat Russia tomorrow, Townsend said he had been impressed with the eastern Europeans as they grew into the tournament.

"Russia have got better," he said.

"Their defence is good. They have a very good scrum, great kicking game. They have some very physical players who are good rugby players. And it's their last game. They will be throwing everything into this."

It will not only be Russia's last game at the current tournament but possibly the last World Cup match for their inspirational captain Vasily Artemyev.

"I need to be realistic. This year, our journey at the World Cup is coming to an end tomorrow," the 32-year-old fullback said. "It's very probable that the next World Cup will be held without me as a player."

Artemyev echoed what Townsend thought and that the team had been improving each game and he was keen for them to try and upset Scotland's hopes for the quarter-finals.

"We will try to do better as we improve with every game at this tournament," he said.

"We'll try to improve more and to create problems for Scotland's defence and put their attack under pressure."


South Africa's scrum-half Hershel Jantjies (left), back row Siya Kolisi (center) and hooker Bongi Mbonambi (right) take part in a captain's run training session at the Kobe Misaki Stadium in Kobe on the eve of their 2019 Rugby World Cup, Pool B, match against Canada.

NZ's Barrett carrying slight injury: Report

REUTERS
TOKYO

All Blacks fullback Beauden Barrett has been carrying a leg injury that hampered his first two World Cup matches but he is getting back to full speed, the *New Zealand Herald* reported yesterday.

The two-times World Player of the Year would not specify what was bothering him, but said it did prevent him from running at full pace.

"I've been battling with a lower leg issue, a bit of a niggle, for a month now," Barrett told the *Herald*. "Its been a frustration but it's starting to feel really good.

"I'm quite positive about it but its been frustrating at times where I'd like to open up and its been hindering that."

Barrett has been playing fullback at the tournament in a dual playmaker role with flyhalf Richie Mo'unga. The All Blacks face Italy in their final Pool B match in Toyota City on Saturday.

'Humbled' Osaka reveals pressure of being number one

AFP
BEIJING

Naomi Osaka has opened up on the immense pressure she placed on herself earlier this year that contributed to a slump in form and the loss of her top ranking.

The 21-year-old Japanese continued her late season resurgence Sunday with victory over current number one Ashleigh Barty in Beijing's China Open final.

It meant back-to-back WTA Tour titles for Osaka, who won the Australian Open in January, but then failed to match those high standards at the next three Grand Slams.

"I think this dip that I had really humbled me, it made me very motivated to be here right now," she said after coming back from a set down to defeat Australia's Barty.

Osaka, toppled as number one by Barty in June and now ranked third, said that after winning in Melbourne "I honestly was counting the ranking points.

"I was too stats-oriented after I won the Australian Open because there was this big thing about you're number one now.

"Then I felt like I shouldn't lose a match after that."

Osaka, who burst to the fore by beating Serena Williams to win the 2018 US Open, said that she is trying to "care" a little less to take the pressure off.

It is a mindset that helped her triumph in her home Pan Pacific Open last month, but was not in evidence in the early stages against Barty.

Osaka said that she was so desperate to win the Beijing final that she was in tears as she lost the first set, although she managed to hide it well and recovered her poise.

"Honestly, I don't think I'll ever feel the same way that I felt again right after Australia," she said of the sky-high expectations she placed on herself.

"There's no way, no way that's possible."


Andy Murray of Britain looks at the ball while playing against Juan Ignacio Londero of Argentina during their first round singles match at the Shanghai Masters in Shanghai yesterday.

Murray recovers from slow start to win opener

AFP
SHANGHAI

A roaring Andy Murray recovered from dropping the first set to beat Argentine qualifier Juan Ignacio Londero in his Shanghai Masters opener yesterday.

The 32-year-old Briton, returning from career-saving hip surgery in January, won 2-6, 6-2, 6-3 and meets Italian 10th seed Fabio Fognini in the second round.

The three-time Grand Slam winner Murray is slowly making his way back to fitness and is now ranked 289th, having been 503rd last week. This victory is set to lift him into the top 250 and he said it was another step towards getting back to something like his best.

"I think each week I have been feeling good, more better," said Murray, whose first singles match after surgery was a defeat at the Cincinnati Masters in mid-August.

"In the beginning I didn't necessarily feel good, but last couple of weeks have been I think much improved. My movement overall has been very good in comparison to what it was over in the United States and I'm hoping that's something that can get a little bit better."

The former number one won his first ATP Tour singles match since surgery two weeks ago in China's Zhuhai and followed that up by reaching the quarter-finals last week in Beijing, where he lost to eventual winner Dominic Thiem.

The 56th-ranked Londero surged into a first-set lead but Murray, who said he struggled initially with his timing and felt sluggish, fought back to force a deciding set. Murray, a three-time champion at the Shanghai Masters, broke the Argentine in the fourth game of the third set but was then broken himself and screamed in frustration.

The Peninsula
Local focus, Global vision
SPORT





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Manchester United sinking fast as Solskjaer flounders



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Tuesday 8 October 2019

Prominent names in attendance on first day at Aspire Academy

Global Summit begins with eye on Qatar's 'rapid' football development

THE PENINSULA
DOHA





Tottenham Hotspur's manager Mauricio Pochettino speaking during the "Aspire Academy Global Summit" on Football Performance and Science at Aspire Academy Football Performance Center yesterday. RIGHT: The Director-General of Aspire Academy, Ivan Bravo, during his speech. PICS: BAHER AMIN/THE PENINSULA

The 5th edition of the "Aspire Academy Global Summit" on Football Performance and Science kicked off yesterday and gathered delegates from 50 football clubs and federations as well as big names in international football such as Tottenham FC manager Mauricio Pochettino, the retired Argentinian top forward Hernan Crespo, former Real Madrid-coach Santiago Solari and former Australian star player Tim Cahill in the "Asia Auditorium" of the Academy's Football Performance Center.

In the official opening, Ivan Bravo, Director-General of Aspire Academy, welcomed the guests and described their community – the "Aspire in the World Fellows" – as unique in terms of working together in the world of global football.

"I am happy to see a lot of very familiar faces from previous editions in Paris, Berlin, London and Amsterdam and I also welcome the people that join us today for the first time."

He stressed that the location of this year's Summit – the Academy's Football Performance Center – was also a good example for great teamwork that originated from an idea that he discussed with Football Performance & Science Director and "Aspire in the World Fellows" founder Valter di Salvo eight years ago.

"There were some stops on the road, everybody had to get in the same state of mind and it's not easy to put the "we" in front of the "I", but the result of what we accomplished is truly amazing."

Ivan Bravo also took the time to reflect on the things he talked about in previous editions of the Global Summit and stressed that this forum is an ideal platform to share experiences and to collaborate in order to get new ideas that can help to contribute something to their clubs and in return also contribute something to the success of the "Aspire in the World Fellows" community.

Furthermore, he reflected on the development of football in Qatar in the recent years.

"There are many great ideas in football, but often times we face obstacles. We are fortunate here in Qatar that everyone has a lot of patience, because in order to achieve something it takes resilience. I previously told you about our road map, our vision towards 2022 and the milestones that show our progression.

"And in order to progress you need continuity and trust in the people that have worked with the young generations of Qatari footballers day in and day out and every year we felt that we made another step forward. We built our athletes knowing their weaknesses and the context in which they are in. We worked step by step and then the triumph at the Asian Cup happened with a whole nation behind us. An unthinkable result when you think that Qatar faced those monsters in terms of their population and football history.

"This achievement gives us the energy give us one more push. And we keep pushing and learning from one another. That's why we keep bringing good coaches to the league in Qatar, so the players keep developing," said Bravo.

Before the first "Master Class" conducted by Mauricio Pochettino, the Executive Director of the "Aspire in the World Fellows" program, Valter di Salvo, addressed the audience and said that he was delighted to finally be able to welcome the Fellows in Qatar.

"The layout of our summits is quite special. It reminds of the Majlis, the traditional set-up for people to gather in Qatar. We don't want to teach people something, we want people to share and work together.

"And that is our goal over the next three days. Furthermore, we are able to do that in Aspire Academy's Football Performance Center, a hub where we develop our players and that was designed under the premise to send the sport scientists to the pitches in contrast to sending football players to the labs."

Di Salvo proudly told about the exemplary work the community has done since 2014 including the creation of 260 presentations that were uploaded on the Fellows' online platform and the first research publication in an international Journal of Sport Science a week ago.

"Each year we keep moving forward and it's one of my dreams for this community to give something back to people that are not as fortunate as us in the future."

Speaking on the fifth edition of the event, Global Summit Chairman Ali Salem Afifa said: "This is an opportunity to renew contacts and discuss topics of mutual interest with delegates from all over the world in a one of the latest distinctive football settings – the Aspire Academy Football Performance Center. I am sure everyone will have fruitful and rewarding exchanges of ideas in the next few days and I wish them every success with this important conference and a very pleasant stay in Doha."

Excitement mounts ahead of World Beach Games

THE PENINSULA
DOHA

In total, 1,240 athletes from nearly 100 countries, representing all five continents, will compete at World Beach Games from October 12 to 16.



A spectacular view of Katara Beach, one of the main venues of World Beach Games.

As the countdown clock for the inaugural ANOC World Beach Games dwindles, the frequency of social media posts raises. An Instagram post here. A tweet there. And the posts are coming from all accounts – fans, athletes, NOCs and IFs. It's safe to say excitement is brimming for Qatar 2019.

The event will be held from October 12 to 16.

Seemingly each passing day a new NOC announces an official roster. The British Olympic Association announced their team last week, revealing that 11-year-old skateboarding sensation and Tokyo 2020 hopeful Sky Brown will compete in Doha, bringing her prodigious talent and legion of followers.

"I'm really excited to be invited to the World Beach Games. I was so stoked when Team GB asked if I wanted to compete for them," said Brown.

"It will be awesome to skate with other girls from around the world."

Brown is one of 21 athletes selected to represent Team GB at the first global festival of elite beach, water, and action sports. Other NOC's that recently announced their official roster includes: Qatar, the Czech Republic, the United States, and Australia. In total, 1,240 athletes from nearly 100 countries and all five continents will compete at Qatar 2019.

Usually following each roster announcement is a flurry of posts from the NOC's athletes. Training videos are the most common from the Games' competitors, however in the recent lead-up to Qatar 2019, many athletes have been revealing their unique ANOC World Beach Games 2019 uniforms, much to the delight of their followers.

The Games will only go as far as the buy-in from its participants. So far, things are looking good.

Meanwhile, the 350 medal winners at Qatar 2019 will be awarded one of the most distinctive medal designs ever. Shaped like an ocean pebble, the medals include engravings of marine life found all over the globe – dolphins, crabs, coral and various fish.

The medals were inspired by beach sport's beautiful connection to nature, and capturing that essence has been a priority for the ANOC World Beach Games.

"These games are symbiotic with nature, and our mission has been to create the first multi-sport event that leaves positive impacts on local environments and local communities. These innovative medals symbolise both the success of the elite athletes, and our harmonious relationship with the environment," said ANOC Secretary General Gunilla Lindberg.

ANOC announces free access for public at Games

QNA
DOHA

The Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) World Beach Games Qatar 2019 has announced that the public can enter the stadiums and attend the games for free.

The Director of Marketing and Communications at Qatar Olympic Committee, Sheikha Asma Al Thani said that it's a pleasure to give everyone the opportunity to participate in one way or another and expressed joy in announcing that attendance of this historic edition will be free.

She added saying that the event is an extraordinary event that is being held for the first time in the history of beach sports, adding that beach sports atmosphere is suitable for the whole family and the crowd will come in large numbers to encourage their teams and enjoy the beaches of Doha.