

Qatar wrap up Dakar 2026 campaign with valuable Olympic experience

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DIAMNIADIO, SENEGAL: Team Qatar's young athletes brought their participation in the fourth Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026 to a close by attending the Games' closing ceremony at the Youth Olympic Village in Diamniadio. Qatar's Idris Abu Bakr carried the national flag during the ceremony, representing the Qatari delegation at the event.

The closing ceremony celebrated the spirit of the Games through a colorful blend of sport, culture and artistic performances, highlighting the richness of African identity and the continent's diverse cultural heritage.

A number of prominent figures, sports leaders and officials from around the world attended the ceremony, which included addresses by the President of the Dakar 2026 Organizing Committee and IOC President Kirsty Coventry. The ceremony was attended exclusively by athletes and accredited delegations and featured the extinguishing of the Youth Olympic flame, as well as a series of musical performances.



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Idris Abu Bakr carried the Qatar flag during the closing ceremony.

In the sporting competitions, Team Qatar's young athletes concluded their campaign with solid performances that reflected their promising potential and competitive spirit. Dana Salem won the bronze medal in the 100m, while Idris Abu Bakr finished sixth in the 110m hurdles, setting a new personal best of 13.96 seconds. In swimming, Adam Morsi reached the final of the 200m breaststroke, setting a new Qatari senior-category record with a time of 2:17.7. Meanwhile, Adham Al-Deeb advanced to the quarter-finals of the foil fencing competition.

Naji Al-Amari, Head of the Qatar Delegation to Dakar 2026, highlighted the broader value of the Games, saying: "Participation in the Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026 is about much more than results and rankings. It offers young athletes valuable Olympic experiences and opportunities to compete alongside athletes from around the world, helping develop their personalities and enhance their competitive capabilities."

He praised the young Qatari athletes for their commitment, sportsmanship and determination, noting that they had represented Qatari sport and youth in a positive manner. He also expressed confidence that the experience gained in Dakar would encourage them to pursue further development and prepare for future sporting and Olympic challenges.

Qatar was represented by four athletes across three sports. Adam Morsy competed in swimming, Dana Salem and Idris Abu Bakr took part in athletics, and Adham Al-Deeb represented the country in fencing.

The Games attracted approximately 2,700 athletes from around the world, who competed in 25 sports featuring 153 medal events. A further 10 interactive sports were included in the program without medal awards. Competitions and activities were held over 15 days across Dakar, Diamniadio and Saly.

Organized by the International Olympic Committee, Dakar 2026 brought together athletes aged 15 to 17. The event marked a historic milestone for Senegal, which became the first African nation to host the Youth Olympic Games, creating new opportunities for the Olympic Movement across the continent.

Doha Bu Thaila claims Al Noof Cup at Al Uqda

FAWAD HUSSAIN
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Wathnan Racing's Doha Bu Thaila stole the spotlight by clinching the Al Noof Cup as Al Uqda Racecourse hosted its first meeting of the season.

After 10 meetings of the Qatar Racing and Equestrian Club's domestic season at Al Rayyan Racecourse, Al Uqda returned to the calendar yesterday, hosting an eight-race meeting.

Making her seasonal return, Doha Bu Thaila produced a strong finish under jockey Soufiane Saadi to win the 1300m feature for Local Thoroughbreds by 3½ lengths and secure the Al Noof Cup.

The five-year-old bay mare, trained by Alban de Mieulle, conserved her energy before producing a strong late burst in the home straight, passing the long-time leader and pulling clear of her rivals over the final 300m for an impressive victory.

"She was making a comeback and it was a good race. Once she finds her way, she shows her talent. I am happy with the win," said Saadi.

On first meeting at Al Uqda this season, he said: "It was a good event. The track is nice and there is nothing wrong with it. Hopefully, the conditions remain the same throughout the season."

QREC Racing Manager Abdulla bin Rashid Al-Kubaisi presented the Al Noof Cup.


QREC Racing Manager Abdulla bin Rashid Al-Kubaisi presents the Al Noof Cup.


Soufiane Saadi and Doha Bu Thaila on their way to Al Noof Cup win. PICS: JUHAIM/QREC

Earlier, trainer Jassim Al Ghazali and jockey Marco Casamento celebrated back-to-back victories, with Manos Arriba winning the Thoroughbred Handicap 50-70 before Al Kazim prevailed in the Purebred Arabian Handicap 65-85.

In the Local Purebred Arabian Handicap 60-80, Damaah, trained by Hadi Al Ramzani, won by 2½ lengths under Alberto Sanna, while jockey Patrick Cosgrave led Blazing Sunset to a Thoroughbred Handicap 65-85 win for owner Khalid Rashid Al-Mohannadi and trainer Rashid Al Jehani.

Politico, trained by Owaida Salem Al Hajri, looked in top form, sealing a 1½-length victory in the Thoroughbred Handicap 0-70 under jockey Abdulla Rashid Al-Hajri.

In the Local Thoroughbred Maiden for three-year-olds over 1200m, Tiswahum, owned by Injaaz Stud and trained by Ahmed Al Jehani, scored a 2½-length victory under jockey Arnaud De Lepine.

The meeting got underway with an exciting 1200m Thoroughbred Maiden, in which Forteleza scored a short-head victory for trainer Nayef Batal Al-Otibi and jockey Maikon De Souza.

11TH AL UQDA RACE MEETING
AL NOOF CUP

WINNERS: (HORSE, TRAINER, JOCKEY)

Al Noof Cup, Local Thoroughbred Open Race
Doha Bu Thaila, Alban de Mieulle, Soufiane Saadi
Local Purebred Arabian Handicap 60-80
Damaah, Hadi Al Ramzani, Alberto Sanna
Thoroughbred Handicap 65-85
Blazing Sunset, Rashid Al Jehani, Patrick Cosgrave
Purebred Arabian Handicap 65-85
Al Kazim, Jassim Al Ghazali, Marco Casamento
Thoroughbred Handicap 50-70
Manos Arriba, Jassim Al Ghazali, Marco Casamento
Thoroughbred Handicap 0-70
Politico, Owaida Salem Al Hajri, Abdulla Rashid Al-Hajri
Local Thoroughbred Maiden
Tiswahum, Ahmed Al Jehani, Arnaud De Lepine
Thoroughbred Maiden
Forteleza, Nayef Batal Al-Otibi, Maikon De Souza

Japan stun Brazil with late winner in Singapore friendly

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Japan's Tatsuhiro Sakamoto celebrates.

DOHA: Japan produced a stunning comeback win over Brazil, scoring a stoppage-time winner to claim a 3-2 friendly win in Singapore yesterday despite a brace from Vinicius Jr.

Hajime Moriyasu's side made a flying start, capitalising on defensive errors to take a two-goal lead inside the opening 20 minutes through Takefusa Kubo and Keito Nakamura.

Brazil hit back in the 33rd minute when Vinicius Jr unleashed a superb long-range strike into the top corner to reduce the deficit.

The Real Madrid forward completed his brace in the 75th minute, collecting a pass from Bruno Guimaraes after a corner before beating his marker and curling the ball into the net off the post.

However, Japan sealed a memorable win as Tatsuhiro Sakamoto struck in stoppage time to avenge their 2-1 defeat to Brazil in the FIFA World Cup last 32 in June. Tempers flared after the decisive goal, with Brazil coach Carlo Ancelotti and forward Raphinha sent off for protesting against the decision not to award a foul on Joao Gomes in the build-up.



Qatar held by Vietnam in U-23 friendly tourney

Qatar played out a 1-1 draw against Vietnam at the Vietnam U-23 Friendly Tournament at Pleiku Stadium in Pleiku, Vietnam, yesterday. Mohamed Hani Faragalla gave Qatar the lead in the 20th minute, but Vietnam hit back after the break, with Minh Tam Nguyen scoring in the 48th minute to restore parity. Neither side could find a winner as the match ended in a draw.

Qatar Open among best ATP Tournaments of 2026

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DOHA: The Qatar ExxonMobil Open in Doha, Rolex Shanghai Masters, and Almaty Open have been named Tournaments of the Year in their respective categories for the 2026 ATP Awards, based on the results of player surveys.

The Qatar ExxonMobil Open has continued to rate highly with players, and it has secured the ATP 500 Tournament of the Year award for the second consecutive season. Doha had previously won the ATP 250 award six times before being upgraded to an ATP 500 event in 2025, and has now claimed the top honour in the category in both of its first two years at that level.

Players have been particularly appreciative of the overall experience in Doha, from comfortable hotel accommodation and excellent breakfasts to seamless transport to and from the tournament site.

Once there, the quality and availability of practice courts, the player restaurant and medical facilities have all helped make life easier for players throughout the week, while a new outdoor warm-up area was another welcome addition this year.

"Winning the ATP 500 Tournament of the Year award once again is an incredible honour and a source of immense pride for all of us," said Tournament Director Karim Alami.

"This recognition reflects the dedication, passion, and hard work of our entire team, as well as the unwavering support of our long-standing partners, particularly ExxonMobil."

Shanghai claimed ATP Masters 1000 Tournament of the Year honours for the first time since 2013, with the tournament continuing to be a favourite among players for its facilities and attention to detail.

Doha secured the ATP 500 award for the second consecutive year, while the Kazakhstani event in Almaty is the ATP 250 Tournament of the Year for the first time.

Qatar finish runners-up at Tent Pegging World Cup with three medals


A Qatar rider in action.

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DOHA: Qatar capped an impressive campaign at the 2026 Tent Pegging World Cup in Aqaba, Jordan, finishing second overall with three medals, including an individual gold and two team silver medals.

The Qatari riders secured the overall runner-up position, finishing just nine points behind hosts Jordan, who claimed the title. Saudi Arabia took third place.

Qatar had made a strong start to the championship by winning silver in the team lance event on the opening day, finishing behind Jordan, while Saudi Arabia took bronze.

The team continued its medal-winning run on the third day, adding another silver in the team rings and pegs (suspended targets) and relay event. Jordan again took gold, with India finishing third.

Qatar also celebrated an individual gold medal through Ibrahim Jassim Al-Hammadi, who topped the suspended targets competition on the third day to underline the country's strength in the discipline.

The national team comprised Faisal Saad Al-Hajri, Ghanem Hadaf Al-Qahtani, Ibrahim Jassim Al-Hammadi, Nasser Hamad Al-Hajri and Abdullah Faleh Al-Hajri. Ali Saleh Al-Baloushi served as coach, while Khalifa Faraj Al-Suwaidi was the team manager.

The three-medal haul and overall second-place finish marked a significant achievement for Qatar, reflecting the team's progress and its ability to compete with leading nations in the sport.

The campaign also highlighted the continued development of tent pegging in Qatar, with the riders making their mark across both team and individual competitions on the international stage.

Al-Rajhi wins Jeddah Baja as Al Attiyah settles for second

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JEDDAH: Yazeed Al-Rajhi and his German navigator Dennis Zenz stormed through the final 83.89km stage of the Jeddah Baja Toyota Rally to secure the driver's record-breaking seventh victory yesterday.

The Overdrive Toyota Hilux driver runs with support from Jameel Motorsport and began the day trailing Qatar's Nasser Saleh Al-Attiyah and his French navigator Max Delfino by 1min 07.8sec.

But Al-Rajhi and Zenz overcame the tricky navigation on the short competitive stage better than their rivals to secure a winning margin of 6min 43.8sec and the lead in the Saudi Toyota Rally Championship.

Emirati biker Mohammed Al-Balooshi and local quad pace-setter Haitham Al-Tuwaijri confirmed victories in the motorcycle and quad categories on this second round of the off-road series.





Yazeed Al-Rajhi on his way to a seventh victory at the Jeddah Baja. RIGHT: Nasser Saleh Al-Attiyah (left) and Al-Rajhi at the finish.

Saleh Al-Saif and Albert Veliamovič again got the better of Challenger rivals Dania Akeel and Sébastien Delaunay to secure the final place on the podium in their G Rally Team OT3.

Akeel finished fourth in a Taurus T3 Max. The success was Al-Saif's fourth in the class in the last five years.

A fascinating duel developed for SSV honours between Maha Al-Hamali and Hamad Al-Harbi in their Can-Am Maverick Rs. Al-Hamali and Alexsei Kuzmich were quickest on the day and that enabled them to stay clear of Al-Harbi and Faisal Al-Suwayh to take the class win and fifth overall.

Both crews moved ahead of Khalaf Joan Al-Shammeri and Mashal Saleh Al-Shammeri on the last stage and the Nissan Patrol duo slipped to seventh.

Abdulaziz Al-Yaeesh and Omar Al-Lahim reached the finish in 11th in their Isuzu D-Max and topped the leader board in the Stock category for series-production cross-country machines.

Al-Balooshi was content to let his brother Sultan take the fastest time on the final stage in the motorcycle race but the MX Ride Dubai duo reached the finish in first and second places, with Mohammed securing a winning margin of 6min 10.0sec.

Ibrahim Al-Jaralla overhauled Dominic Wells on the last stage to round off the motorcycle podium with Abdullah Al-Jahdali finishing a distant fifth on his Yamaha.

Haitham Al-Tuwaijri ceded the final stage win to Abdulrahman Alabdullatif in the quad category but the Yamaha rider had done enough over the previous two days to eventually secure a winning margin of 16min 57.0sec over his CF Moto C Force 1000 rival – his fourth success in five years at the Jeddah Baja.

Badr Al-Hamdan and Yassin Mahmoud Al-Hamad finished third and fourth.

The Saudi Toyota Rally Championship concludes with the Qassim Baja on December 1-4.



CEO of QSL Hani Taleb Ballan

QSL elected to Supervisory Board of World Leagues Association

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DOHA: The Qatar Stars League (QSL) has been elected to the Supervisory Board of World Leagues Association (WLA). The election took place during the association's annual meeting held in Prague, Czech Republic, on November 12 and 13, 2026, with representatives from several of the world's prominent professional leagues in attendance.

The Supervisory Board comprises 14 league organizations from across the world. QSL joins the professional leagues of Saudi Arabia and Japan as part of the Asian representation on the board.

This election strengthens QSL's presence within international football forums and opens broader avenues for collaboration with professional leagues worldwide.

Membership enables QSL to participate in discussions regarding issues that shape the future of professional leagues, share its experience in developing its own competitions and benefit from the expertise of other member leagues.

CEO of QSL Hani Taleb Ballan said, "The election of QSL to the World Leagues Association's Supervisory Board is a significant achievement, underscoring the stature that professional football in Qatar has attained. We take great pride in this milestone, which offers us the opportunity to engage in discussions on strategic direction of professional leagues, contribute to the development of football ecosystem, and foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing with the world's leading leagues. Furthermore, this achievement serves as an impetus to continue operating in accordance with the highest international standards and best practices, building upon our existing successes to further our aspirations for continued progress."

Qatar and Oman Athletes' Commissions discuss cooperation, expertise exchange

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DOHA: The Athletes' Commission of the Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) and its counterpart at the Oman Olympic Committee have agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) next month, aimed at strengthening their partnership, exchanging expertise and experiences, and advancing sports and Olympic work in both brotherly countries.

The agreement was announced during a meeting held by the two sides on Thursday at the QOC headquarters, marking the conclusion of a three-day visit to Doha by the Omani delegation.

The visit featured a varied program of meetings and field visits, providing an opportunity to learn about Qatar's experience in sports and Olympic affairs.

During the meeting, both sides discussed prospects for cooperation and ways to develop initiatives that serve athletes and strengthen their role in the Olympic Movement. They also explored opportunities to exchange expertise and successful experiences to support the development of athletes' committees in both countries.



Members of the Qatar Olympic Committee and the Oman Olympic Committee Athletes' Commissions pose for a photo.

The meeting was attended by Qatar Olympic Committee Sports Sector Director Sheikh Khalifa bin Khalid Al Thani. The Qatari side was represented by Athletes' Commission Secretary-General former high jump world champion Mutaz Barshim, QOC Athletes' Commission Assistant Secretary-General - Team Qatar athlete Nada Mohammed Wafa, and committee members and Team Qatar athletes Abdullah Al-Tamimi and Maryam Al-Suwaidi.

The Omani delegation included Athletes' Commission Chairman Khalifa bin Hamad Al-Jabri, commission member Nasser Hamdan Al-Riyami and commission rapporteur Buthaina Al-Yaqubi. The visit program included a lecture delivered by QOC expert Mohammed bin Humaida, as well as visits to Aspire Academy to learn about its athlete development program, the 3-2-1 Qatar Olympic & Sports Museum, and the Qatar Anti-Doping Agency.

The visits provided an opportunity to learn about the work of these institutions and the services they offer in sports development, talent identification and athlete capacity-building.

On the occasion, Barshim reaffirmed the Committee's commitment to strengthening cooperation with sports committees in brotherly countries and exchanging expertise and experiences to advance sports development and improve athletes' performance.

Khalifa bin Hamad Al-Jabri, Chairman of the Omani Athletes' Commission and member of the Oman Olympic Committee's Board of Directors, expressed his gratitude to QOC President H E Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani, and the members of the QOC Athletes' Commission for their warm welcome and generous hospitality.

He described the visit as productive and highly beneficial, noting that it had paved the way for the signing of MoU between the two sides next month.

Al-Jabri also congratulated H E Sheikha Hind bint Hamad Al Thani on her election as QOC Vice President, wishing her every success.

Svitolina ends Sabalenka's WTA Finals hopes

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INDIAN WELLS: Aryna Sabalenka's season ended in disappointment after Elina Svitolina defeated the former world No. 1 to book her place in the semi-finals of the WTA Finals.

Sabalenka showed her frustration by smashing her racquet and crouching at the back of the court as her hopes of reaching the last four slipped away.

The Belarusian recovered from a late collapse in the opening set to force a decider but lost the final six games to suffer a 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 defeat.

The loss came just two days after the four-time Grand Slam champion suffered a heavy defeat to Mirra Andreeva, losing the final 11 games of that match.

Svitolina will face Czech world No. 8 Linda Noskova in the semi-finals after finishing second behind Andreeva in the group.

Svitolina hadn't beaten Sabalenka since Strasbourg in 2020. Now the 2018 champion is back in the semi-finals in her first appearance at the year-end event since 2019, and for the first time after losing her opening match.



Elina Svitolina hits a return to Aryna Sabalenka. PIC: Xinhua

Sabalenka showed her frustration by smashing her racquet and crouching at the back of the court as her hopes of reaching the last four slipped away.

Their most recent meeting was just two months ago in Shenzhen, where Noskova clinched the Billie Jean King Cup trophy for Czechia with a 6-3, 7-6(5) defeat of Svitolina in the final.

Noskova also won both of their outdoor hard-court meetings in 2024 -- at the Australian Open (via retirement) and in Monterrey en route to her maiden title. Svitolina's win in the series came in this year's Stuttgart quarterfinals.

Andreeva already knew she'd be playing Saturday when she took the court against late replacement Diana Schnaider earlier Friday. She won 6-2, 6-1 to finish 3-0 without dropping a set and will face Jessica Pegula for the first time in the other semifinal.



Ibrahim Yousuf Al Mahmoud (centre) poses on the podium alongside second-placed Saad Ahmed Al Saad (left) and third-placed Cyrine Cherif (right).

Al Mahmoud, Al Shahwani shine at Al Shaqab League

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DOHA: Qatar's Ibrahim Yousuf Al Mahmoud and Vito Blue PS produced a clinical performance to bag top honours as the second round of the Al Shaqab League concluded at the Longines Al Shaqab Arena yesterday.

Al Mahmoud and the 11-year-old gelding produced a double-clear performance to win the Al Shaqab Champions – Table A, Special Two Phases – 140cm class in a combined time of 65.12sec. Qatar's Saad Ahmed Al Saad finished second on Craquante de Mazin in 68.37sec, while France's Cyrine Cherif took third on Jimagine d'Armanville in 65.61sec.

Hadi Mansour Al Shahwani of Qatar won the Junior Champions – Table A, Special Two Phases – 120cm, riding Mira v/d Roshoeve to a double-clear performance in a combined time of 60.82sec. Qatar's Khalid Nasser Al Khater finished second on Nuance van het Groeshof in 60.49sec, while Amer Hamad Al Mansoori of Qatar took third on Gatsby in 64.85sec.

Hamad Mohammed Awad Al Marri of Qatar claimed the top two places in the Amateur Accumulator with Joker – 100cm, winning on Little Lord in 46.70sec and finishing second on Cat Ballou 27 in 47.64sec. Qatar's Aljohara Mohammed Al Thani took third on Gralain AA in 48.82sec.



Hadi Mansour Al Shahwani, aboard Mira v/d Roshoeve, in action.

In the Introductory 2 Optimum Time – 60cm, Hamad Mohammed Al Thani of Qatar took the top spot on Violet Van Het Koetshuis in 33.95sec. Tunisia's Fida Alkahouaji finished second on Shelfa in 34.15sec, while Qatar's Ahmad Nasser Al Kuwari placed third on Kroaat van Orchid's in 33.70sec.





Qatar Arabian Breeders Cup to conclude today

The three-day 6th Qatar Arabian Breeders Cup 2026 horse show began in Doha on Friday. Hamaleel Al Shaqab topped in the Yearling Fillies category on the opening day while Luna Al Jassimya claimed the Second B title. Falwa Al Shaqab won the 2-Year-Old Fillies class, while Elyssa Al Jood emerged victorious in the 3-Year-Old Fillies category. Yesterday, Haddaj Al Araiya and Jeryan Al Thamer topped among Yearling Colts, Dstoor Al Sraiya in Colts 2YO, Hayf Al Sharaan in Colts 3YO, Bashayer Al Bawadi among Mares 4-6 YO, and Alkaydah Al Sraiya in Mares 7-10YO class. The championship finals for the five classes will take place today. PICS: JUHAIM/QREC