

SPORTS
sports**Referee banned**

Reuters | London

Referee David McNamara has been handed a three-week ban by the English FA for asking two captains to play rock, paper, scissors to decide the kick-off before a Women's Super League (WSL) match after forgetting his coin, British media reported on Tuesday.

The incident took place ahead of Manchester City's home game with Reading on Oct. 26 and involved their England skipper.

Sindhu sets sights on number one

AFP | Hong Kong

Indian badminton star PV Sindhu set her sights on reaching world number one after she shook off opening-match nerves to reach the last 16 at the Hong Kong Open on Wednesday.

Last year's runner-up and current world number three needed a mid-match pep talk from her coaches before beating Thailand's Nitchaon Jindapol 21-15, 13-21, 21-17. "It's not going to be easy because there are some players who are coming up. But definitely one day I will be world number one, that's what I feel," said Sindhu, who was briefly ranked second last month. Sindhu, 23, narrowly lost the 2017 Hong Kong final to Taiwan's one Tai Tzu-ying.

National Sports Day

TDT | Manama

The 2019 edition of the Bahrain Sports Day has been scheduled for February 12, the Bahrain Olympic Committee – the event organisers – announced yesterday.

As per the BOC's most recent board meeting, registration for the event is now open and interested authorities can now submit their entries.

BOC said it has decided to launch registration much earlier in order to allow as many Bahrainis and expats parties to sign up and join the festivities this year.

Curran rescues England

England were all out for 285, Sri Lanka replies with 26-1 on day one of second test

AFP | Kandy, Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's spinners claimed some big-name England wickets on the first day of the second Test yesterday before Jos Buttler and Sam Curran rescued the innings.

Buttler's 63 and a crucial 64 from Curran at the end lifted England to 285 all out after they had been struggling on 89-4 on the turning Pallekelle stadium pitch. Curran, fast becoming an England hero, said reaching near 300 was a "massive" achievement.

England spinner Jack Leach then strengthened England's position, dismissing opener Kaushal Silva in the 12 overs Sri Lanka faced as the home side reached 26 for one at the close.

A day that saw Ben Stokes, batting at the key number three position, become the latest to fail also reinforced Buttler and Curran's standing lower down the order.

England were in trouble against spinners Dilruwan Perera who took four wickets, Malinda Pushpakumara (three) and Akila Dananjaya (two) when Buttler came in to counter-attack with five boundaries and a crucial 45-run stand with Adil Rashid who made 31.



Jos Buttler sweeps through the leg side

Buttler's 63 off 67 deliveries ensured Sri Lanka did not convert a good position into a dominant one, as he swept and reverse swept furiously and effectively. He was eventually out top-edging a reverse sweep off left-arm spinner Pushpakumara, playing his first Test for more

than a year. Curran was even more important, taking 50 balls to reach double figures before he tore into the Sri Lankan bowling. He hit six sixes and a four off the spinners and his last wicket partnership of 60 with Jimmy Anderson was the best of the

innings. "It was crucial. You saw in the evening how much it spun. Getting close to 300 was massive for us," said Curran. "Me and Jimmy had quite a bit of fun out there. He was probably the one telling me to calm down and trust him."

64

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Stokes, who batted at number five in his team's opening win last week, was boosted up the order in the latest bid to find a solid number three. Off-spinner Perera successfully reviewed an lbw decision against Stokes after the on-field umpire had turned down an appeal. He was out for 19.

England captain Joe Root, who scored 35 and three in the first Test, was bowled by Pushpakumara in the 18th over for 14 and opener Rory Burns (43) soon followed as England lost regular wickets on the dry, crumbling surface.

Curran said the wicket was fast breaking up and the cracks growing so England spinners must be looking forward to the second day. Ten of the 11 wickets to fall yesterday went to spinners.

Mahmudullah gives Bangladesh control

AFP | Dhaka

Mahmudullah Riyad scored his first Test century in more than eight years as Bangladesh set Zimbabwe a towering 443-run target to win the second Test in Dhaka yesterday.

The hosts began their victory push, reducing Zimbabwe to 76-2 at stumps on the fourth day after Mahmudullah's unbeaten 101 off 122 balls helped the side declare the second innings on 224-6.

Off-spinner Mehidy Hasan broke a 68-run opening stand by removing Hamilton Masakadza for 25 after he dropped the Zimbabwe captain on five off debutant pacer Khaled Ahmed.

Mehidy also dropped Brian Chari on a naught but fellow



Zimbabwe cricket captain Hamilton Masakadza (R) plays a shot as Bangladesh cricketer Ariful Haque (2R) tries to catch it and teammate Mushfiqur Rahim (2L) and Bangladesh cricketer Mominul Haque (L) look on

spinner Taijul Islam dismissed the opener for 43 soon after Bangladesh got their first breakthrough. Brendon Taylor and Sean Williams remained at

the crease on four and two respectively, facing a monumental task to win or avoid a loss as Zimbabwe still trailed the hosts by 367 runs.

Bahrain Classic Challenge to add historic flavour to GT

Cars in action during Bahrain Classic Challenge (file photo)

TDT | Manama

Motorsport fans will enjoy many firsts at the upcoming Bapco Bahrain GT Festival, taking place November 30 and December 1 at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) in Sakhir. Aside from the all-new FIA GT Nations Cup and the inaugural SRO GT4 International Cup, the first-ever Bahrain Classic Challenge will give those in attendance an opportunity to take a step back in time with some of the most iconic racing machines.

Held in cooperation with Patrick Peter's Classic Endurance Racing Series, this popular category features a packed grid of more than 20 cars from yesteryear.

Usually found at Europe's premier venues, the series makes its journey to Bahrain to add a historic flavour to the Bapco Bahrain GT Festival.

For the first time, Peter Auster's Sixties' Endurance grid

will be showcased in the Middle East for their final races of the year.

On the track are cars whose names AC Cobra, Ferrari 250 GT, Lotus 15, Jaguar E-Type, and many others still echo in the memories of fans of this era of endurance racing which, at the time, was the top branch of motorsport. They are part of a long list that continues to bewitch the public with their shapes and exhaust notes that hark back to another era.

A classification based on an Index of Performance which, in addition to the scratch classification, gives an advantage to the small capacity cars and the oldest warriors faced with their more powerful and more modern rivals like the very quick AC Cobras that have racked up victories on many circuits. Free practice and qualifying will take place on November 30 and will be followed by two races on December 1 on the Sakhir circuit.

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Walking benefits in focus

TDT | Manama

The benefits of walking for health, physical fitness and mood were stressed at a dedicated workshop held in Riffa.

This day-long event was organised by the Bahrain Olympic Committee's (BOC) Olympic Academy at the Bahrain National Stadium.

Titled 'importance and benefits of walking', was part of the committee's annual plan to develop national competencies in the field of sport.

It was presented by international instructor Pori Primoz, who presented a number of themes, such as walking, air exercises, mental serenity, functional parts and many other related subjects.