

## Solskjaer urges Man Utd strikers to follow Cavani's example



Ole Gunnar Solskjaer (L) talks with Edinson Cavani during a match (file photo) AFP | London

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has encouraged Manchester United's strikers to learn from Edinson Cavani after the Uruguayan's influential display against Fulham.

Cavani, 33, showed all his predatory instincts and wealth of experience as United came from behind to beat Fulham 2-1 on Wednesday.

The former Paris Saint-Germain star capitalised on a mistake from Fulham goalkeeper Alphonse Areola to cancel out Ademola Lookman's sixth-minute strike.

Paul Pogba's superb strike sealed the win for United, who sit top of the table with a two-point lead over Manchester City.

Aside from Pogba's gem, it was Cavani who caught the eye as he became the first United player to score their first four league goals for the club away from Old Trafford.

After joining on a free trans-

fer in October, Cavani is making his influence felt in the Premier League and Solskjaer wants Marcus Rashford, Mason Greenwood and Anthony Martial to emulate the veteran.

Rashford and Martial have started to fulfil their potential, but Greenwood remains a work in progress and the United boss believes all three would benefit from following Cavani's example.

"He's a centre forward that you want in the box. His movement is incredible, it's for everyone to learn from," Solskjaer said.



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OLE GUNNAR SOLSKJAER

# Bahrain go down fighting against Croatia

Nationals show flashes of brilliance but not efficient enough offensively to forge upset against European powerhouses

● Bahrain are playing to gain as high a placing as possible on the final classification

TDT | Manama

Bahrain put in a spirited fight last night in an 18-28 loss to European giants Croatia in their opening match of the main round in the 27th IHF World Men's Handball Championship, being held in Egypt.

The Bahrainis had moments of brilliance and made their heavily favoured rivals sweat, but were not efficient enough offensively to secure an upset.

The nationals are out of the running for a place in the quarter-finals but are playing to gain as high a placing as possible on the final classification. This year's edition marks their fourth appearance in the worlds.

Bahrain had a slow start and quickly fell behind 1-7 in the early stages. They were unable to break the formidable Croatian defence and were down 3-9 after 20 minutes. But they gradually got into their groove and picked up the pace behind the strong play of skipper Husain Al Sayyad, who fired in four



Bahrain's Jassim Salatna in action against Croatia last night

of their first-half goals.

The Bahrainis were able to get good scoring opportunities on the fastbreak through Mahdi Saad and Mohammed Ahmed, and were able to get within 6-11. Goalkeeper Mohammed Abdhussain was also instrumental in helping the team bridge the gap to 8-13 at the interval.

In the final 30 minutes, Bahrain continued to battle and back-to-back goals from Mohammed Ahmed and Jassim Salatna helped bring them to within 16-21.

But the Croats were just too good on the night and were

able to extend their cushion towards the final buzzer, eventually closing out a double-digit victory.

Al Sayyad and Ahmed both finished with six goals to lead Bahrain. Only four others were able to get onto the scoresheet, with Mahdi Saad scoring thrice, and Ali Mirza, Mohammed Mirza and Salatna contributing a goal apiece.

Zlatko Horvat was Croatia's leading man with eight goals. Ivan Martinovic and Marino Maric chipped in with four each.

The nationals are in Group



II of the main round. The other teams are Qatar, Japan, and their Group D rivals from the preliminary stage, defending world champions Denmark and Argentina.

Bahrain are next scheduled to face their Qatari counterparts tomorrow. The match is set for a 5.30pm throw-off, Bahrain time. They then play their final main round fixture on Monday against Japan at the same scheduled time.

Bahrain will no longer take on Denmark and Argentina in this stage, as their results from the preliminaries are carried over.

They therefore head into their clash with Qatar with a 0-3 win-loss record. Croatia improved to two wins with one draw.

## Najma edge past Nuwaidrat in basketball league

● Bosnian-Serbian professional Dragan Tubak scores 41 points to lead Bahrain Club to easy win over Isa Town

TDT | Manama

Al Najma escaped with a 79-73 victory over Nuwaidrat last night in the 2020/2021 Zain Bahrain Basketball League.

Najma led for most of the game and were ahead by as many as 17 in the second quarter. But Nuwaidrat fought back over the final two periods and came within just three points, 73-76, following an Omran Yousif three-pointer with just 47 seconds remaining.

Fadalallah Abbas was able to ice the game for Najma, however, with two pressure-packed free-throws and just 10 seconds on the clock. Ali Jaber pegged the final score with another charity shot right before the final buzzer.

Najma were able to come away with the win despite CJ Giles fouling out of the game late on. He was limited to just 23 minutes after having to deal with foul trouble, scoring 14 points and grabbing 12 rebounds.



Najma's Fadalallah Abbas looks to drive to the basket during their game against Nuwaidrat

Jaber led the team with 24 markers and nine boards while Abbas nearly had a triple-double with 19 points, eight rebounds and seven assists.

American AJ John and Muradha Salman both finished with 19 to pace Nuwaidrat, while Husain Hasan added 11.

With the result, Najma improved to a 6-3 win-loss record while Nuwaidrat dropped to a 5-5 mark.

In yesterday's other game,

Bahrain Club comfortably defeated Isa Town 99-73, led by the 41 points and 16 rebounds of Bosnian-Serbian import Dragan Tubak.

Bahrain Club came away with only their second win in 10 contests, while Isa Town stayed winless in the same number of games.

League action continues tonight with Manama facing Riffa at 5.30pm, followed by Al Hala taking on Sitra at 7.45pm.

## Aguero self-isolating after contracting coronavirus



Sergio Aguero

AFP | London

Manchester City's record goalscorer Sergio Aguero said yesterday he has contracted coronavirus and is self-isolating.

The 32-year-old Argentinian striker had already been self-isolating due to being in close contact with someone who tested positive for the virus.

Britain is in the midst of a third lockdown due to the emergence of a new strain of Covid-19 across the country in recent months which is believed to be more contagious.

Manchester City have been hard hit by the virus with 11 players and staff testing positive in recent weeks.

## Packed nine-race card set at REHC



Action from a previous race at REHC

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Nine exciting races are on today's card at Rashid Equestrian and Horseracing Club (REHC).

The main event is for the REHC Cup. It will be over a six-furlong straight with a BD3,000 total prize.

Dark Power, Roman River and Buffer Zone are the favourites among the 10 horses entered. Some of the Kingdom's leading owners and trainers are represented in the race, including Victorious, Al Mohamediya Racing and Al Adiyat Racing, among others.

Meanwhile, Lexus Cups will

be up for the taking in five races.

They include the day's eighth race (12 furlongs, BD3,000 prize), seventh race (eight furlongs, BD2,000), fifth race (seven furlongs, BD3,000), fourth race (six-furlong straight, BD2,000) and second race (five-furlong straight, BD2,000).

A Royal Golf Club Cup is also up for the taking in race six, set over eight furlongs with a BD2,500 prize, while in the first race over six furlongs, on the line will be the Al Fatees Bin Salem Al Hajeri Cup and a BD1,500 total prize.

Racing gets underway at 1.20pm at REHC.