

## Sports

## Photo of the day



Mohammed Jaffar trains for the Dakar Rally. —Photo taken from www.redbullcontentpool.com

# Olmo fires RB Leipzig top of Bundesliga ahead of Bayern

## Bosz fumes as Leverkusen miss chance to top Bundesliga

**BERLIN:** RB Leipzig dislodged Bayern Munich at the top of the Bundesliga table Saturday as Dani Olmo's second-half goal was enough to seal a 1-0 win at Stuttgart. "It was really good for me and the team to start the year with a win," Olmo told DAZN. With European champions Bayern at home to strugglers Mainz on Sunday, Leipzig took the chance to go a point ahead as Olmo fired through the legs of Stuttgart goalkeeper Gregor Kobel.

Stuttgart's Swiss shot-stopper had earlier pulled off some heroics by using his foot to save an Emil Forsberg first-half penalty attempt. Leipzig also wasted a golden chance when Amadou Haidara fired wide just after the break. With 23 minutes left, Spain midfielder Olmo finally got the breakthrough, finishing a move he started after Leipzig had moved the ball across the Stuttgart penalty area. "It feels good to be top," admitted Leipzig defender Willi Orban. "The first half was good, the second was better - we were clearly the dominant team." Earlier, Bayer Leverkusen blew the chance to take first place after stumbling to a 2-1 defeat at Eintracht Frankfurt which saw them drop to third as the league resumed after a two-week break. "I have made my feelings clear in the dressing room," Leverkusen head coach Peter Bosz told Sky. "We deserved to lose. Frankfurt had a better claim to the victory." Leverkusen midfielder Nadiem Amiri scored with a deft back-heel flick to give the visitors the lead after only 10 minutes in Frankfurt.

However, Amin Younes equalised to make it 1-1 at half-time before Japan midfielder Daichi Kamada put in a cross which Leverkusen defender Edmond Tapsoba turned into his own net. Before kickoff, Frankfurt director Fredi Bobic confirmed reports his club are interested in Bayern's teenage striker Joshua Zirkzee, 19, after selling Dutch forward Bas Dost to Brugge. Zirkzee could back up Frankfurt's top scorer Andre Silva, who has netted nine league goals this season.

### Awoniyi shines

Union Berlin rose to fourth - into the Champions League places for the first time in the club's history - after their 2-0 win at Werder Bremen. Liverpool loanee Taiwo Awoniyi, who has scored in his last three league games, capped another impressive display with a goal and assist. After Bremen lost the ball in their own half, the 23-year-old Nigeria international took advantage of a two-on-two situation by drawing the defence and passing to Sherako Becker, who fired home on 12 minutes.

Awoniyi doubled Union's lead on 28 minutes by tapping the ball over the line, just out of the reach of Bremen goalkeeper Jiri Pavlenka. Bremen had a penalty appeal turned down when a shot by Japan midfielder Yuya Osako clipped the hand of a Union defender, then Romano Schmid had a goal ruled offside. Hoffenheim lost both defender Kevin Akpoguma and Germany midfielder Sebastian Rudy with

early leg injuries as they crashed to a 3-1 home defeat to Freiburg.

### Winless in 30 league games

With the hosts struggling to reshuffle, Freiburg were 3-0 up at half-time thanks to a Baptiste Santamaria goal, a Vincenzo Grifo penalty and an own goal by Senegal defender Kasim Adams. Hoffenheim scored a second-half consolation goal through Togo winger Ihlas Bebou. Borussia Moenchengladbach, who host Manchester City in the first leg of the Champions League last 16 next month, earned their first win in five league games with a 1-0 victory at Arminia Bielefeld. Swiss striker Breel Embolo netted the winning goal just after half-time when he held off a defender and fired home.

Mid-table Augsburg rebounded after back-to-back defeats with a 1-0 win at Cologne with Brazilian winger Iago netting the late winner. Bottom side Schalke are now 30 games without a win - one short of the Bundesliga record - after a 3-0 defeat away to Hertha Berlin. Former Tottenham manager Christian Gross, installed as Schalke's fourth head coach this season, got off to a losing start as Arsenal loanee Matteo Guendouzi, Colombia striker Jhon Cordoba and his replacement, Poland forward Krzysztof Piatek, scored for Hertha. Having netted two minutes after coming off the bench, Piatek had a second late goal ruled offside. —AFP

## News in brief

### Alvarado retain IBF crown

**WASHINGTON:** Nicaragua's Felix Alvarado stopped South Africa's Deejay Kriel after 99 seconds of the 10th round on Saturday to retain his International Boxing Federation light flyweight title. Making his US debut in Dallas, Texas, Alvarado improved to 36-2 with his 31st stoppage inside the distance. Alvarado stretched his win streak to 18 fights since losing to Argentina's Juan Carlos Reveco by decision for a flyweight title in June 2014. Kriel, a former IBF strawweight world champion, fell to 16-2 with one drawn. The 25-year-old from Johannesburg was knocked to the canvas in the second and fourth rounds. "I knew this would be a tough fight," Alvarado said. "I dropped him with a hook, and I didn't even expect for a punch like that to land. But rather than keep looking for that punch, I kept pushing him to the ropes to wear him down." It marked the second time Alvarado, whose twin brother Rene fights at super featherweight, has defended the IBF crown he took from Filipino Randy Petalcorin in 2018. —AFP

### FIFA suspend Trippier's ban

**MADRID:** FIFA has suspended Kieran Trippier's 10-week ban for breaching betting rules, freeing the England international to play for his club Atletico Madrid pending appeal. The 30-year-old was barred from any football activity by the English Football Association last week, ruling him out for at least 13 matches for the Spanish league high-flyers. FIFA's decision taken late Saturday allows Trippier to return to play for Diego Simeone's side until the appeal is heard at a crucial period of the season. They are lying second in La Liga, just one point behind Real Madrid but have games in hand and can regain the summit later Sunday. Last week the FA banned him until February 28 with a £70,000 fine (94,000) after being found guilty of charges surrounding his move from Tottenham to Atletico. One of England's standout performers in their run to the 2018 World Cup semi-finals he denied the seven charges. —AFP

### NFL's Little dies at 78

**WASHINGTON:** Floyd Little, a legendary running back for the NFL's Denver Broncos, was recalled by US President-elect Joe Biden as fearless and gritty on Saturday after his death was announced at age 78 after a battle with cancer. Little, whose death Friday night was announced by the American Football Hall of Fame, was a classmate of Biden at Syracuse University, when Little was a gridiron star and law school student. Biden recalled watching "his number 44 flashing by defenders who had no chance." "In the years that followed, I got to know Floyd as the man behind the number," Biden said in a statement. "He was full of character, decency, and integrity. He was always gracious with his time with fans - parents and grandparents who wanted to introduce their children and grandchildren to a genuine role model. I was one of them." —AFP

### Qatari driver Al-Attiyah wins

**JEDDAH:** Qatari driver Nasser al-Attiyah sent out an early warning to his rivals in the Dakar Rally by winning the car prologue on Saturday while defending champion Ricky Brabec of the USA took the early motorbike honors. The prologue, being run for the first time in the Dakar's history, took place on a mainly sandy 11-kilometre route near the Red Sea city of Jeddah. Toyota driver Attiyah, a three-time winner of the most grueling event in motorsport, earned the right to start first in Sunday's opening stage, a 622km run from Jeddah to Bisha in the southeast of the kingdom. Attiyah faces stiff competition from reigning champion Carlos Sainz of Spain. The Qatari faces a busy 2021 as he is also aiming for a seventh appearance in skeet shooting at the rearranged Tokyo Olympics. It is the second consecutive year that the rally is being held in Saudi Arabia. —AFP

## Kuwait 'Crown Prince Cup Tournament'

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** The 'Round 16' of HH the Crown Prince Cup commenced Wednesday and brought some slight surprises. The first match between Nasr and Burgan ended with the ouster of Nasr from the tournament. Nasr wanted to score early but never near the opponents' goal post. Burgan players - along with their goal keeper absorbed the pressure.

Meanwhile counter attacks by Burgan players were not fruitful neither. That continued until the 26th minute when Al Mislati was able to score after receiving a pass from Sayyed Dhiya. Burgan's Nicolas Kofi scored a second goal in the 100th minute, but Nasr's Mishal Fawaz equalized in the 123rd minute. The teams had to go for the penalty kicks which saw Burgan advance to the next round. The final results were Nasr 2(4) - 2(5) Burgan.

In the second match, Sahel advance to quarter finals after defeating Yarmouk 2-1. They will meet the current holder Kuwait. Yarmouk's Uday Al-Dabbagh scored for his team in the 57th minutes, while Mathews Eduardo scored for Sahel in the 66th and 75th minutes. The referee disallowed a goal by Uday Al-Dabbagh for offside. Al-Dabbagh took advantage of mistake by Sahel's goal keeper and his

defense and scored his goal in the 57th minute. Sahel increased their pressure and were able to score an equalizer from the penalty spot in the 66th minute.

The third match resulted in Fahaeel advancing after defeating Khaitan 3-0. The goals were scored by Saad Ayedh in the 9th minute, Fawaz Al-Rashidi in the 28th and Jacob in the 44th. Tadhamon football team came roaring back and beat Salmiya in HH the Crown Prince tournament 1-0. Though Salmiya had beaten them earlier in Kuwait Football league (ranking phase) 9-1, Tadhamon's Faisal Ajab scored the winner in the 18th minute. The same player had earlier failed to score from the penalty spot. Tadhamon's defense was able to thwart the scoring chances of Salmiya as Tadhamon moved into the round of eight.

In another match, Qadisiya did not have any difficulty in beating Sulaibkhat 5-0. Qadisiya's all goals were scored from the penalty spot. Ahmad Al-Dhafiri scored in the 3rd minute, Lucas in the 36th, Saif Al-Hashan in the 53rd and Bader Al-Mutawa in the 90th minute.

In the match between Arabi and Shabab, Arabi moved into round eight by beating Shabab 1-0. Al-Hadi Al-Sanousi scored in the 81st minute. Both teams aimed at scoring early and exchanged attacks. The first shot was fired by Salman Al-Awadhi but hit the cross bar in the 13th minute. The referee disallowed a goal by Kita in the 32nd minute for offside. The second half saw Al-Shabab increased the pressure on Arabi. At the 81st minute, a penalty was given to Arabi and that proved to be the winner.



## Kuwait's Shooting tournament ends

By Abdellatif Sharaa

**KUWAIT:** The shooting tournament of the Late Sheikh Abdallah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah was concluded on Saturday with the closing ceremony at Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex. Tournament's patron Sheikh Mubarak Al-Abdallah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah along side with Sheikh Abdallah Mohammad Al-Abdallah Al-Sabah, President of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Engr Duaij Al-Otaibi, Secretary General of Kuwait and Arab Shooting Federations Obaid Al-Osaimi and board members attended the ceremony.

Sheikh Mubarak Al-Abdallah lauded the efforts of Kuwait Shooting Sport Club in developing the game in the country which resulted in many major achievements at all levels. He also congratulated the winners. The event was distinguished by large participation by local shooters from the clubs and the National Guard as it



focused on the 10 Meter Air Rifle and Pistol as well as Olympic archery.

Meanwhile, Engr Duaij Al-Otaibi said this tournament was distinguished by shooters getting excellent results ahead of the upcoming championships. Al-Otaibi appreciated the continued support of the late Sheikh's family. He said the club will organize its

scheduled tournaments while complying with the health protocols to safeguard the well being of shooters and other personnel.

Results of the tournament were as follows: In the 10 meter air pistol (men) - Othman Al-Failakawy; Hamad Al-Namshan and Hassan Abdelmajeed. In the 10 meter air rifle (men) - Abdallah Al-Harby; Ali Al-Mutairi and

Faraj Al-Ajmi. In the 10 meter air pistol (women) - Huthama Al-Baghy; Sundus Al-Hamad and Mariam Al-Kandary. In the 10 meter air rifle (women) - Hussa Al-Zayed; Mariam Irzouqi and Barool Ishkanani; Olympic archery - Abdallah Taha; Faisal Sindi and Hatem Sharar. Compound archery - Abdallah Malallah; Salem Al-Saeed and Fahad Al-Rasheed.