

2026 WORLD CUP



Canada's Jonathan David, front, rejoices alongside Tajon Buchanan after scoring the team's second goal during Thursday's match against Qatar at BC Place in Vancouver. EMMA PETERSON/ASSOCIATED PRESS

A NEW CLASS OF HEROES ARRIVES

Canada silences the naysayers, and puts itself firmly in the mix, with a dramatic first win on soccer's biggest stage

CATHAL KELLY VANCOUVER

OPINION

As he ran from the front of the net after scoring what was, for just a moment, the biggest goal in Canadian men's soccer history, Cyle Larin waved his teammates away. He wanted to make it to the corner before the mobbing began.

Once there, Larin plugged his ears. The point of this celebration is to drown out the haters. Are there any more of those left? So what he didn't hear was the sound a stadium makes as a new collection of national heroes is introducing itself.

That goal opened the sluices to what would end up the biggest ever victory for the Canadian men's pro-

gram. At 3 p.m. local, this team still had its reasonable doubters. Two hours later, those same people were wondering exactly how wrong they got it. Definitely a little. Maybe a lot.

Larin's goal, along with three from strike partner Jonathan David, propelled Canada to a 6-0 victory over Qatar. Canada has almost certainly qualified for the knockout rounds. If they draw against the Swiss on Wednesday, Canada will be the winners of Group B.

From no World Cups, to no points in World Cups, to genuinely in the mix in World Cups. Canada's air in this tournament is getting thin in a hurry. As you follow along, remember to put your own oxygen mask on first.

Thursday's was a comprehensive victory. A little too comprehensive, if we're being honest.

■ KELLY, A7



SPORTS

Key midfielder Ismaël Koné stretchered off the field after suffering leg injury

■ B13

CULTURE

Vancouverites cheer 'history in the making' as 6-0 victory ignites city

■ A7

Nathan Saliba holds up teammate Ismaël Koné's No. 8 jersey as Canada celebrates its fourth goal on Thursday. FRAN SANTIAGO/GETTY IMAGES

Ontario-based prosecutor joins Alberta health contract investigation

TOM CARDOSO
CARRIE TAIT

A veteran Ontario-based prosecutor is now involved in the criminal probe of alleged procurement irregularities at Alberta's health authority.

Tom Andreopoulos confirmed in an e-mail that he is acting as a Crown counsel in the case, though he declined to elaborate on his exact role. Throughout his career, Mr. Andreopoulos has prosecuted bikers and mafiosos, and was also involved in the criminal investigation that targeted former Toronto mayor Rob Ford.

Mr. Andreopoulos has been involved in responding to efforts by a consortium of news outlets, including The Globe and Mail, to unseal search warrant documents filed as part of the police investigation. He responded to inquiries from the consortium's lawyer. His assignment to the case is the first indication that outside legal help has been sought for the probe.

The RCMP announced an investigation last year after Athana Mentzelopoulos, the former chief executive of Alberta Health Services who was fired by the government of Premier Danielle Smith, raised concerns about her agency's contracting processes and alleged ties between private businesses and senior Alberta government officials.

The allegations levelled by Ms. Mentzelopoulos have dogged Ms. Smith's government for almost a year and a half.

The Globe revealed Wednesday that the police had served Alberta Health Services with document production orders.

Provincial justice departments sometimes appoint prosecutors from other provinces when dealing with politically sensitive cases, or those in which a potential conflict of interest may arise.

For instance, Ontario's Ministry of the Attorney-General hired Richard Columbia defence lawyer British Columbia 2009 as a special prosecutor in the case against Michael Bryant, a former Ontario attorney-general. Mr. Bryant was charged in the death of cyclist Darcy Allan Sheppard, though Mr. Peck withdrew all charges in 2010, stating there was no reasonable prospect of a conviction.

Mr. Andreopoulos has spent most of his career with the federal Public Prosecution Service of Canada, according to his LinkedIn profile. He has prosecuted cases involving the Hells Angels, drugs, conspiracy and criminal organizations, and has also worked on politically sensitive prosecutions. In 2018, he obtained a guilty plea in a case against Domenico Violi, an underboss for a Buffalo mafioso family.

■ ALBERTA, A15

WAR

Ukraine pounds Moscow oil refinery in one of its largest drone attacks yet

■ A3

WEEKEND WATCHING

Hilarious and poignant, Toy Story 5 goes to infinity, and beyond

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REPORT ON BUSINESS

Ottawa and B.C. commit up to \$3.2-billion to help cut home-building costs

■ B1

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A Mideast expert sizes up the hurdles ahead as the U.S.-Iran deal comes into effect
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