This season Al Duhail had gone unbeaten until yesterday but it was evident for a few weeks that a defeat lurked around the corner. That uncertainty came to fruition on Thursday when Al Sadd beat Al Duhail 3-1 at the Khalifa Stadium, confirming to the latter that the season of invincibility was over.

It was a performance that was expected from the team most associated with real success in Qatar league. Despite the loss, however, Al Duhail will not depart Khalifa with their heads down. The after-effects of the defeat, their 19th consecutive victory, will be felt by their opponents. This has been a team that has gone unbeaten all season until yesterday, and Al Sadd's win not only gives them the upper hand in the championship but a win that will shake the confidence of the defending champions.

The win was a statement of intent from Al Sadd. It was a team that was hungry for victory and was determined to show that they were the team to beat in Qatar. The win was also a positive for how they played. They were aggressive, and this was evident in the way they played the game. They were not content just to hold on to their lead but were determined to put in a performance that would be remembered.

Al Sadd's defence, Sadd broke down Al Duhail's defence to go top of league
Guaridola praises Sterling for confronting racism

"He's an incredible person. It's tough in the 21st century to still be in this position, to have problems with diversity."

Guardiola, whose side host Hoffenheim in the Champions League today, told Sky Sports that Sterling's latest explosion was a moment he wanted to 'highlight the importance of sport in his life'.

"As a football player you should do the same,” the Manchester City boss said.

Sterling had earlier reportedly been asked on Instagram what he thought of Guardiola's comments, but the Spaniard was too busy to respond.

"I saw your comment, I was busy," the Man City star told the social network, before adding: "Thank you for your support."

Manchester City's Defence Center trains with freedom in Manchester yesterday. (Reuters)
Bayern Munich head to Ajax for showdown

Bayern need just a point at Ajax to win Group E with the Bavarian giants currently top of the table.

INFANTINO OPENS FIFA EXECUTIVE SUMMIT IN DOHA

Infantino opens FIFA Executive Summit in Doha

FOOTBALL

Infantino opens FIFA Executive Summit in Doha

By Sports Reporter

The three-day FIFA Executive Football Summit opened in Doha on Monday with the participation of 15 national football associations, including the FIFA President Gianni Infantino. The Summit is organised by the AFC as part of the football confederations' effort to improve the governance of the sport and La Liga in North America.

PREMIER LEAGUE

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Hockey World Cup in Bhubaneswar yesterday.

Belgium's Thomas Briels (second from right) celebrates after scoring a goal as Pakistan's Ahmed Butt (third left) and others look on during their cross-over match at the 2018 Netherlands and Belgium in Bhubaneswar.

The lowest ranked of the 16 prospective places in the upcoming Pakistan sets up a mouth-watering clash against the giants of Asian hockey.

In the day's opening cross-over match, Belgium had the better of the first 10 minutes against Poland, with the Olympian who represented his country and the Netherlands put some speculative cross-shot taken a wonderful run along the backline and the simplest of finishes after a penalty corner before Red Lions made five goals, so it could be their endeavour deserved, a mountain to climb in the final minutes of the second period when Defenders such as David Cicero – later named Player of the Match – bravely charged forward as Poland's defence before eliminating goalkeepers Thijs van Dam. The 18-year-old, who won the short-course world champion. Aspetar Diamond Level status.

Argentinean swimming power Titmus put her head in her hands at the Olympic Games in Japan, where she won the 800m freestyle gold and set a new world record.

Ireland flyhalf Sexton extends contract until 2021

Ireland flyhalf Sexton extends contract until 2021

Sexton, 33, was crowned as World Rugby player of the year in 2018 and has been at the centre of Ireland’s resurgence.

He extended his contract with the Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU) yesterday to keep playing in his homeland until the end of the 2021-22 season.

Sexton is considered one of the world’s best players and has been at the centre of Ireland’s turnaround in recent years.

Amidst his team’s performances, the Ballymena-born flyhalf has been an integral part of the backline that has led the team to successive Six Nations titles and a Grand Slam last year.

The flyhalf has been in fine form, leading the team to successive Six Nations titles and a Grand Slam last year.

The award-winning flyhalf is set to continue to play for the Irish national team until the 2021-22 season, with Sexton now looking forward to the next challenge.
New York Rangers on Monday. 

S

James wins final duel with Wade as Lakers roll on

It’s tough. This is what you play for, playing against one of the greatest players ever"
Defence dominates as Seahawks beat upon Vikings 21-7

Seattle Seahawks (6-6-1) and Minnesota Vikings (6-7) met at U.S. Bank Stadium on Sunday. The game went back and forth, with Seattle coming out on top 21-7. The victory marked the Seahawks' third win in their last four games.

The Seahawks dominated the Vikings on both sides of the ball, holding Minnesota to just 7 points. Seattle's defense, led by defensive end Bobby Wagner and linebacker K.J. Wright, recorded two sacks and forced two turnovers. The offense, led by quarterback Russell Wilson, scored touchdowns on their first two possessions, and the defense held the Vikings scoreless until the fourth quarter.

Wilson threw a 39-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Tyler Lockett on the opening drive, and the defense followed with a strip-sack and fumble recovery, setting up a 2-yard touchdown run by running back Chris Carson.

The Vikings, despite having a 7-3 lead in first downs, were unable to capitalize on their opportunities. The defense, led by free safety Harrison Smith, allowed just 316 total yards and 16 points.

With the win, the Seahawks move into fourth place in the NFC West, a game behind the Los Angeles Rams, who have a bye this week. The victory also marked the Seahawks' first win on the road since October 10, 2021, against the Washington Football Team.

Seattle Seahawks

Elliott frustrated with officiating – and justifiably so

Dallas Cowboys running back Ezekiel Elliott was frustrated with the officiating during his team's loss to the Minnesota Vikings on Sunday. Elliott had a career-high 215 rushing yards but was penalized for a horse-collar tackle in the fourth quarter, which resulted in a personal foul and a first down for the Vikings.

Elliott, who was penalized for the first time in his career, had a 13-yard touchdown run nullified by the call and had to sit out most of the fourth quarter. The Cowboys went on to lose 21-7.

"The ref came up to me and said, 'You know what? You were supposed to know what you were doing,'" Elliott said.

"I'm not going to tell you what I was thinking at the time, but I've been playing football for 11 years and I've never had a penalty called on me in the most important games in my career. It's frustrating. We're not going to make excuses, but it's been the same all year.""
Struggling Bangladesh hope for a better second Test

Australia look for quick fix ahead of second Test

Opener hits unbeaten 146 to guide the visitors past Bangladesh's 257/5 in Dhaka

Second ODI

Solutions

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Solutions

Australia Big Bash League swaps coin toss for hat trick

Scorecard

Buoyant India keen to carry momentum on to Perth

Focus

Spotlight

SPOTLIGHT

Australia Big Bash League swaps coin toss for hat trick

Australia's high-voltage for both India and Australia will break with tradition and flip the coin to work on to the toss or the coin toss will have no relevance in this match, while a lottery will be drawn from two plastic bottles.
Big challenges ahead, starting with prepping for 2022: QFA president

HE Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa bin Ahmed al-Thani re-elected for four years

Qatar Football Association (QFA) president, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa bin Ahmed al-Thani, will embark on a new journey filled with significant challenges as he heads into the new year, the Asian Cup in the UAE, and the Copa America in Copa America 2022 in Brazil. He expressed his gratitude to the board of directors and the membership for their support and dedication during his tenure, highlighting the support and guidance given by the QFA secretary-general Mansoor al-Ansari.

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