Al Sadd clear favourites against Al Rayyan

By Sports Reporter

Al Sadd coach Jesualdo Ferreira wants to end his Qatari football league tenure on a high note, by winning the Amir Cup. The experienced Portuguese manager has must succeed he would be leaving Qatar for good, having turned Al Sadd from a second-rate club into a Champions League force in just six years.

Ferreira, who was unveiled as the club’s new coach in June 2013, led Al Sadd to their first league title earlier this year.

The Amir Cup final this weekend against Al Rayyan, who can be unpredictable, will be a farewell, providing an extra motivation to his players. "I am happy for the Amir Cup final. It’s the second competition that we will be playing for this year," he said.

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T he Premier League has marked its return to action with a showcase of footballing excellence, as two English teams contested a final. Liverpool, who won the UEFA Cup in 1972 and the Champions League in 2008, faced off against their local rivals Chelsea.

“The coaches who are in charge of these teams, Jurgen Klopp and Frank Lampard, are some of the most knowledgeable, experienced, and respected figures in English football,” said Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane, who led his side to victory in a Champions League final against the best team in Europe in 2018.

“It’s only pain,” added Klopp. “Football does not know about mercy, but we will wait to win the title. We’ve never been a readymade team, and we’ve got a lot of things to work on.”

Jurgen Klopp is in his fourth season at Liverpool and his team is hopeful the Brazilian will be available for the 70-year-old has since received the support of club owner Vincent Choudhury.

Klopp even had his own words of wisdom for the Premier League’s most recent set-piece specialist, Hamza Choudhury. “If I’ve been a player under him, his coaching has made me a better player. We’ve got to get back to where we want to be.”

The English have the most money and are now spending it sensibly, “said German newspaper Zeit, “while Spanish daily AS predicts that they should invest wisely in the clubs this year. We’re a big club now and we wish to return to Italy. Sarri is still coveted for jobs in Serie A should he decide to leave Chelsea.”

Scott was brave to accept a three-year contract with Chelsea, said director of football Ralf Rangnick. “That’s always going to be the case with Scott. He’s a very difficult challenge, but he’s also a very good coach. Chelsea are definitely up to the task.”

“Now, the challenge lies with Fulham and I know how things work. I’d like to confirm that they have not yet made an approach.”

Leicester’s Choudhury fired for social media comments

Former Leicester chairman and director of football, Aylett, fired a warning at Chelsea head coach Frank Lampard, who had been linked with a move to Stamford Bridge.

“Ceferin has been linked with a move to Chelsea, but he’s not the only candidate. We’re looking forward to getting the job done with him.”

Scott was moved to tears by an emotional message from Frank Lampard, who had been his assistant at Fulham. “I think we’ve arrived as a football club. It’s been a very difficult challenge in February and March, but we’ve come through it.”

Leicester City’s English midfielder Kamil Chuma has been fined 100,000 euros for posts on his social media that included racist references. “I know how things work, and I know how to handle the pressure. I’ve been a player under him, and his coaching has made me a better player.”

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Barcelona expect frosty return to their home ground

There are going to be some difficult days ahead, but we have to go again.

Football

FOOTBALL

Barcelona's Argentinian striker Leonel Messi (10) scores past Liverpool's Brazilian midfielder Fabinho (3) during Liverpool's German-born (from Cameroon) defender Joel Matip's first Champions League match against Liverpool at Anfield in Liverpool, north west England on May 7. However, Liverpool beat Manchester United 3-0 in the final to claim the trophy. In the competition, Liverpool won the title for the first time in 2019.

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**Du Plessis, Watson lead Chennai into record eighth final**

Chennai will now take on Mumbai in the final in Hyderabad tomorrow.

**FOCUS**

**EX-SRI-LANKA TEST PLAYERS CHARGED WITH MATCH-FIXING**

Colombo: Former Sri Lanka Test players Nuwan Zoysa and Aravinda de Silva have been charged with match-fixing and given two weeks to respond, the International Cricket Council said yesterday.

The charges against the two Sri Lankan players were announced yesterday by the ICC, which said it had launched an investigation after being approached by police in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka police said the charges were related to a match-fixing attempt during a match in 2009.

**SPOTTLIGHT**

Smith hits unbeaten 91 as Australia beat New Zealand

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WAMI Smith plauds unflappable 91 and Glenn Maxwell is raving about his team after Australia had light工作打开了局面，与澳大利亚赢得世界杯的机会。Brendon Taylor said they had been through something in the past few months as the latter returns from a back spasm, Vince was unsure whether he will be involved after overcoming a back spasm. He eventually fell to Nathan Lyon holding sandpaper. He eventually fell to Nathan Lyon holding sandpaper.

While this week’s series was uneventful, it gave both teams a new lease of life, and they will now move on to the next round of matches against Afghanistan and the West Indies.

**BOTTOMLINE**

**England batsman Vince eyes World Cup chance**

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ames Vince hopes to capitalise on his recent form against Australia and England in this World Cup. The 28-year-old Vince has already scored 54 in his two innings against Australia and England in this World Cup.

The left-handed opener has been in good form in recent months and will be looking to make the most of his opportunity against New Zealand.

Vince said: “It’s great to be back among the bats after what seems like a long time. We’re looking forward to playing in front of the home crowd and we’re hoping to take the game to New Zealand.”

Australia's Steve Smith plans just a quiet chat during a practice match against New Zealand in Brisbane yesterday (AFP).
**Boston power play strikes as Bruins seize game one**

**NHL**

_Jeffrey Brown of the Philadelphia Flyers drags the ball away during the game seven of the Eastern Conference final of the 2019 NHL Stanley Cup playoffs at the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania._

On Thursday, Boston’s power play strikes as Bruins seize game one. Bruins coach Bruce Cassidy agreed to have let his team play the way it did, and he got to take advantage of the powerplay. Cassidy was pleased with the way the Bruins played as well as the success they had on the power play. Cassidy talked with the media after the game and said: “We want to come out and play with our energy and we get the job done.” Cassidy was also pleased with the way the Bruins were able to keep the pressure on and get the game out of their hands. Cassidy said: “We wanted to come out and play with our energy and we get the job done.” Cassidy was also pleased with the way the Bruins were able to keep the pressure on and get the game out of their hands. Cassidy said: “We want to come out and play with our energy and we get the job done.” Cassidy was also pleased with the way the Bruins were able to keep the pressure on and get the game out of their hands.
Pujols gets RBI No. 2,000 as Angels rout Detroit Tigers

There are some 20,000 players who have played this game and to be the (fourth) one on that list… that’s amazing. I thank God for the ability and the talent. I thank my family and my wife and kids, my coaching staff, the players. You don’t accomplish it by yourself.

The game was played in cold, raw Detroit weather on Thursday afternoon.

The Rockies held on to beat the Angels, 7-5. David Fletcher had a two-run double in the seventh, and Calhoun also homered. Zack Cozart drove in two runs with a sacrifice fly before La Stella reached, Ohtani singled home the first run of the game. David Fletcher had a two-run double in the seventh, and Calhoun also homered. Zack Cozart drove in two runs with a sacrifice fly before La Stella reached, Ohtani singled home the first run of the game.

Howard was viewed as the franchise’s cornerstone after he received a five-year extension for an extension all off season, with one out in the third. The Rockies scored three runs in the fifth inning, tossed seven innings and struck out seven. Justin Bour and Kole Calhoun also homered. Zack Cozart drove in the first run off Holland in the first inning. After the first two batters of the eighth inning, Ohtani singled home the first run.

The Angels scored two runs in the second inning, tossed seven innings and struck out seven. Justin Bour and Kole Calhoun also homered. Zack Cozart drove in the first run off Holland in the first inning. After the first two batters of the eighth inning, Ohtani singled home the first run.

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Tiger takes aim at 16th major, PGA win at Bethpage

Woods will arrive at the Long Island three major wins shy of the record 18 set by Nicklaus and one win shy of the US PGA overall win mark of 82 set by Snead.

SPORT

Tiger Woods

The 18-time major winner and four-time US Open champion will be aiming to win his 16th major at Bethpage Black, which hosted the US Open in 2002.

Tiger Woods completed one of the great comebacks in sports history last month with a dramatic victory at the Masters for his fifth major title and first major triumph since the 2008 US Open (AFP)

Tiger Woods celebrates after making birdie on the 17th hole during the final round of the US Open golf tournament at Pebble Beach in Pebble Beach, California on June 17, 2019.

Woods has won 15 of the 73 majors he has entered, including three US Open titles at Bethpage. The 15-time major winner says he has added a new discipline to his game.

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Thiem ends Federer's clay court return

Halep closes in on a return to No. 1 after beating Bencic to advance to the women's final

SPORT

Federer one championship hero Valentina Bottas added both practice points to his tally yesterday with Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas clinching a second-place finish and Mercedes still off the pace, the times dispelled hope an immaculate return to pro-success hunt form for Mercedes' Sebastian Vettel and Charles Leclerc, who have been indispensible so far. The reigning champions have notched up four consecutive one-two finishes, setting format 74 points adrift in the construction standings. It's always an interesting day when you're bringing new parts to the car to get a little bit of it and see if they bring the performance you're looking for.

"The car felt really good today, completely different to how it was in winter testing, and it seems like our cornering performance has improved. The balance ahead of the lap is also better, it is like we've taken the right direction for the winter." Bottas produced his quickest lap in the final two minutes of a session of one-minute stints this morning. Five-time world champion Lando Norris led the billboards, 0.364 seconds ahead of Bottas, while Leclerc was third and three-tenths behind Bottas. Leclerc, who led 0.135s at the same same soft tyres.

Ferrari test driver Mattia Binotto, who was third in qualification, was looking forward to the final practice today, given the Ferrari have been the fastest in testing so far.

"It's difficult to know what it's like, but we are very happy with the car, and we are very happy with the performance," said Binotto. "It's a big step forward for us, and we are very happy with the performance." Bottas made it clear that Mercedes were not yet happy with the performance of his car's engine. "It's been a little bit of a struggle for us," said Bottas. "But we have made some progress since the last test in Barcelona, so I'm looking forward to seeing how we perform today." The Mercedes team have been struggling in recent weeks and Bottas said the team were aiming to find a solution to the problem of rear wheel lock-up.

"We have been working quite well, too," said the Dutchman. "We have been making good progress and I think we will be able to make some improvements today." Bottas is looking forward to the next two sessions, which will be held on Saturday and Sunday, when the teams will have the opportunity to prepare for the final practice and the qualifying session.

"I think we will see how much progress we can make between now and then," said Bottas. "We have some ideas on what we need to work on and we will try to make the most of the time we have left." Bottas is currently second in the drivers' championship, 22 points behind Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel. The team is looking to give Vettel a strong challenge for the title, and Bottas is pushing hard to close the gap. "We are going to give it our all," said Bottas. "We want to win the title and we are not going to take any risks." Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas drives during the second practice session yesterday at the Circuit de Catalunya in Montmelo on the outskirts of Barcelona ahead of the Spanish Formula One Grand Prix (AFP)