Alaaeldin brace fires Gharafa to 3-0 win over Shahania

By Sports Reporter

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In the second match of the day, two first-half penalties ensured that the match between Al Sadd and Al Shahania ended in a 1-0 victor.

The game was evenly contested throughout the 40 minutes and Al Sadd scored their goals through Alaaeldin (2nd half) and Sofiane Hanni (72nd minute).

The two teams could have been further separated at the break had it not been for the goalkeeping efforts of Khalid Al Jasmi in goal for Al Shahania. The second half commenced in similar efforts as Al Sadd continued to dominate the proceedings and were left without any real danger.

The resistance was finally broken when Alaaeldin tracked on to Shahania’s pan to drill the ball home. Fewer than five minutes later, they doubled their lead when Alaaeldin latched on to Sofiane’s pass to drill the ball home.

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Topline

India must get limited-overs opener Rohit Sharma to play the first two Tests in Australia, says Ganguly.

INDIA captain Virat Kohli and team manager Ravi Shastri. AFP

Rahane half-century anchors India revival in first Test

Aditya Rahane’s 50 in India’s first-innings revival on Monday took his tally to 134 for four on Sunday as the opening-day of the first Test against West Indies continued at the P. Sara Oval in Colombo yesterday.

The left-handed opener, who was recalled after being out in both the innings earlier this year, upstaged the in-form West Indies pace duo of Kemar Roach and Shannon Gabriel to guide the visitors to 134 for four at lunch yesterday. Rahane, who broke a 45-run stand with Kuldeep Yadav (21), then continued with his fluency as wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant (38) joined him to share an unbroken 83 for the sixth wicket.

The opening day of the first Test was interrupted due to rain for the third consecutive day and play will continue today. Rahane and Pant, who are looking to cement their places in the team, both made half-centuries as India were on the verge of registering a first-innings lead.

The young Rishabh Pant for the unavailability of century-makers Rohit Sharma and PB Saini, who missed the tour due to injury. Rahane and Pant shared a 134-run stand for the sixth wicket.

The two Tests in Colombo, which also mark the beginning of the World Test Championship for both sides, will present another opportunity for Rohit and Pant to showcase their skills. Rahane believes he should be at the top of the order.

“I had a great opportunity to play under head coach Ravi Shastri, under whom I scored 78 in the 2018-19 series in Australia,” Rahane said.

The 50-year-old former captain, who has scored 10 centuries in Tests, is looking forward to playing his first Test as captain against Australia.

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Aston Villa's Smith expects stern test against solid Everton

Some of them have got in earlier than others and some of them are waiting their turn'

EVERTON'S DAIMS FINED FOR TRIPE TO Villa
defender Leon Bailey's vision has kicked off a sticky moment and will be available for this Premier League game against the Villa on August 17, 2019. (Reuters)

Leon Bailey's three yellow cards in the city derby earlier this season means the Villa have to keep a close eye on the striker.

Baily has scored more goals than Bailey since the start of the season and Villa will have to keep a close eye on their performance in their fixture with The Blues.

"The Villa have got a couple of matches where they have had to struggle and we have had to struggle in those situations, but they have worked very hard in putting the most of the club back into the Premier League at the start of the season, but have now been relegated from the Premier League due to financial difficulties.

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Barca injuries lay extra burden on Griezmann in home bow

"It's good to have him near the area because of his movement but that will only work if we completely dominate games."

Barcelona's French forward Antoine Griezmann looks in action during the Spanish league 'La Liga' football match between Athletic Bilbao and FC Barcelona at the San Mames stadium in Bilbao on August 18, 2019. (AFP)

Barca injuries lay extra burden on Griezmann

It's good to have him near the area because of his movement but that will only work if we completely dominate games, Ronaldinho said after Levante beat Barca 2-1 on Saturday. The match was the first top-flight fixture in Spain since the La Liga season was suspended in March due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"It's a good rivalry but it's not the best," Ronaldo told a news conference earlier on Saturday. "Some were not what I was looking for and some were as I expected.""The last couple of months, Bayern Munich have been fantastic -- Bayern Munich are hoping Coutinho arrival will spark season

Bayern Munich hope that the signings of Barcelona's Philippe Coutinho and Japan's Takehiro Tomiyasu could help them back to German football's top flight after a difficult start to the season.

"Coutinho made me a better player", says Ronaldinho

"I have no doubt that Messi made me a better player and vice-versa. When I am winning trophies it is only because he is the same for me when he wins," he said.

"I really admire the career he has had and from his side, he has made me a better player," Coutinho added.

"With the Catalans shorn of three of their top forwards, all eyes will be on Griezmann in his first appearance at the Camp Nou since his 120-million-euro ($133mn) move from Atletico Madrid in January 2019. However, he has been hampered by injuries this season, missing four months of the campaign because of a calf injury and his return to training has not been without problems.

"Lionel Messi shredded the paper to hand to his "enlightened" playmate before starting to laugh, "Messi is at the top of the game because of his movement but that will only work if we completely dominate games," he said.

"We must work as a team, get involved, " he said.

"Messi's dream return last October to manage Monaco, the club where he established his reputation as a top class striker, turned into a nightmare."

"Messi had returned to training, he is unlikely to be a starter but he will give us our width in attack," the 42-year-old -- Arsenal's record goalscorer -- told the media.

"Call me crazy if you want, but I love football and I want to continue playing as long as possible," he said although he has been contacted over jobs, he has yet to find the right fit.

"The "no phone" rule for four months after I left Barcelona, " he said.

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BASKETBALL WORLD CUP

Tigers overtake Verlander's gem to top Astros

Hicks' blast enabled the Tigers to snap an 8-game losing skid against Houston

**Cardinals release White, reportedly will add Crabtree**

The Arizona Cardinals have released wide receiver Jordan White, reportedly in a move to add another receiver.

White, a first-round pick of the Chicago Bears in 2015, signed with Arizona in March on a one-year, $1.5 million contract with $400,000 guaranteed. He played in just the first game of the season before undergoing surgery for a hernia, which required nine weeks of rest, and a hernia on his left side, which forced him to miss five games. He had been inactive for the past two games.

Cardinals coach Kliff Kingsbury's Air raid scheme is expected to feature four or five wideouts, and Crabtree could become a big part of that system. White was a 30-year-old wide receiver who had struggled to stay healthy over the past few seasons. He has had multiple surgeries on his left shoulder and back in recent years.

**Jets' Copeland draws game suspension**

New York running back Trenton Copeland was given a four-game suspension on Monday for violating the NFL's policy on performance-enhancing drugs. Copeland will be ineligible to play for the first seven games of the 2019 regular season. He will also miss the team's first three games as a result of the suspension.

**Tigers overcome Verlander's gem to top Astros**

With a 2-1 win in 16 innings, the Detroit Tigers overcame Justin Verlander's gem to top the Houston Astros. The Tigers scored in the top of the 16th inning on a solo home run by Nicholas Castellanos.

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Tokyo gold still a priority despite no All Blacks: NZR

“We don’t want our teams just turning up. The colour of the medals are important,“ said Christian Kahui, Sonny Bill Williams, Etene Nanai-Seturo, Salesi Raiana and Timaipiri Katoa after winning the gold medal in the men’s 470 dinghy event. The gold medal was a great confidence booster for Katoa. “It high- lighted our team’s hard work and was a great source of encouragement for all athletes the same with the Olympics. The Ol- ympic champion Dorian van Rijsselberghe of the Netherlands is one of the favourites in the competition for the step of the way... and we have a lot more competitions to win. We have a lot of confidence in our team and we are ready to go all the way. We have been granted leave from our Super Rugby teams to take part in the sevens campaign, NZR said.

India’s Chand confident of making Olympic cut

India’s Hima Das has been impressive by her world-class performance and is a former Asian junior and national champion as well as Asian junior champion. She holds the national record for the 11.26 ranks her only joint 78th in the world. Chand clinched gold in Naples, but at the Rio Games in 2016. She has been granted leave from her Super Rugby team to take part in the sevens campaign, NZR said.

We have chosen our best players and have been able to select the right squad for the Olympic Games in Enoshima, Japan, yesterday. The World Sailing federation has granted leave from their Super Rugby team to take part in the sevens campaign, NZR said.

‘The doctors realised that (the condition) could run... and then had “four or five” re- leases. They only returned to Olympics after the New Zealand-Olympic sailing event at the Enoshima sailing test event for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games in Enoshima, Japan, yesterday. They sealed gold in Rio. They clinched over Britain’s Dylan Fletcher and Stuart Bithell. They produced a series of consist- ent finishes that included three first or second overall before they sealed gold in Rio.

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Djokovic, Federer in same half of US Open draw

Second seed Nadal, who was beaten by Federer in the Wimbledon semi-finals, will play Austrian Julian Missельbauer in the first round of the hardcourt major. Nadal will be hoping to add to his three Grand Slam titles of 2009, 2013 and 2019 to his tally of 18 majors.

Wimbledon's committers noted that their draw is made up of a selection of the best players in the world. Djokovic and Federer are two of the eight World Tour Finals seeds, while Nadal is the number one seed.

The draw was made on Thursday by former British No1 and three-time Grand Slam winner Tim Henman. He said: "I think it's a great draw. Both of them have had a fantastic year and are those players who you want to play in the final."

Federer faces Nadal in the quarter-finals, with Djokovic taking on third seed Novak Djokovic in the semi-finals. Nadal and Federer are seeded to meet in the final, while Djokovic and Nadal are seeded to meet in the semi-finals.

The draw is also set to feature the likes of Danil Medvedev, Stefanos Tsitsipas, Matteo Berrettini and Alexander Zverev. The top four seeds are Nadal, Federer, Medvedev and Zverev, while Djokovic is the number five seed.

Round 1: Nadal vs. Federer, Djokovic vs. Tsitsipas
Round 2: Nadal vs. Tsitsipas, Djokovic vs. Federer
Quarter-finals: Nadal vs. Tsitsipas, Djokovic vs. Federer
Semi-finals: Nadal vs. Tsitsipas, Djokovic vs. Federer
Final: Nadal vs. Djokovic

Federer, Nadal and Djokovic are seeded to meet in the semi-finals, with the Swiss and the Serb seeded to meet in the final.

Federer faces Nadal in the quarter-finals, with Djokovic taking on third seed Novak Djokovic in the semi-finals. Nadal and Federer are seeded to meet in the final, while Djokovic and Nadal are seeded to meet in the semi-finals.

The draw is also set to feature the likes of Danil Medvedev, Stefanos Tsitsipas, Matteo Berrettini and Alexander Zverev. The top four seeds are Nadal, Federer, Medvedev and Zverev, while Djokovic is the number five seed.

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**TENNIS**

**Fans betting on sentimental favourite Serena**

During a dominating run, she lifted the trophy three times in succession from 2012.

**Indian Wells Davis Cup tie postponed**

The ITF has delayed the women's Davis Cup tie between India and Japan, with the women's event now set to be held in January at the Australian Open.

**Japanese teen Gauff is rising fast**

A new star is rising in women's tennis, and her name is Cori Gauff.

**Powerful Osaka is US Open top seed**

Naomi Osaka, who won the US Open last year and is currently ranked second in the world, is the top seed for the US Open.

**Spotlight**

Osaka heads to NY strving for form, fitness and fun

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Djokovic, Osaka are US Open top seeds

Serbia's No. 1 Novak Djokovic and Japan's Naomi Osaka are the two highest ranked players in the women's and men's singles respectively for the upcoming US Open.

**BOTTOMLINE**

Teen sensation Gauff next act at US Open

The 15-year-old American has been making waves in the tennis world and is expected to make a splash at the US Open.