Farag stays on course for title repeat in Qatar Classic

Defending Classic champion Farag to take on world champion Tarek Momen in the semi-finals today

Farag admitted. “You’ve got to be on your mettle with everything, you give him nothing. I always love a battle with him, with everything, he gives you nothing. I think it’s the best lengths out of anyone on tour, he just makes it extremely difficult to nullify him. For me, it’s a really good match and it made it extremely tough. I thought I had some chances in the fourth game, I was 8-5 up and I shouldn’t have squandered that lead.

World No 6 Ali Farag stayed on course for his title repeat in Qatar Classic with a victory over World No 5 Paul Coll yesterday. Coll prevailed when the pair met in the semi-finals of the PSA Men’s World Championship last year in London in a five-game thriller.

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Barcelona, Juventus win as Leipzig beat PSG

‘We have to play better than we did today. We have to improve, above all without the ball’

CAMPEONATOS

CHAMPIONSHIP LEAGUE

Barcelona, Juventus win as Leipzig beat PSG

We have to play better than we did today. We have to improve, above all without the ball.”

Barcelona’s Gerard Pique (right) celebrates with Ansu Fati after scoring against Dynamo Kyiv during the UEFA Champions League Group C match at Camp Nou, Barcelona, Spain on November 24, 2020. (Reuters)

Barcelona’s Gerard Pique (right) celebrates after scoring against Dynamo Kyiv during the UEFA Champions League Group C match at Camp Nou, Barcelona, Spain on November 24, 2020. (Reuters)

Sources: Gerard Pique has said the 2020-21 season is the most important in the history of Barcelona. English Premier League football club Manchester United were knocked out of the Champions League on Wednesday. The 35-year-old defender is out with a foot injury. Luis Enrique’s men have gained two group stage points due to suspension for their Qatar era. The 15-year-old finally tested positive for coronavirus on Monday, November 23. Reports he does not see eye to eye with Barca’s president Joan Laporta. Reports he does not see eye to eye with Barca’s president Joan Laporta. Reports he does not see eye to eye with Barca’s president Joan Laporta. Reports he does not see eye to eye with Barca’s president Joan Laporta. Reports he does not see eye to eye with Barca’s president Joan Laporta. Reports he does not see eye to eye with Barca’s president Joan Laporta.
Solskjaer's defence is shaky as future hangs in the balance

“I am employed by the club to do a job and I'm doing that to the best of my ability.”

Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer may still have some currency in his favour with Woodward after signs of improvement in the team last term. United finished third in the league — only four points behind Premier League winners Chelsea. But they finished third at Old Trafford yesterday but Manchester United forward Marcus Rashford was ruled out of the match with a hamstring injury that ruled him out of action for a few weeks.

Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer (right) and midfielder Bruno Fernandes (left) looked upset after they slumped to 1-2 defeat against Tottenham Hotspur in the Champions League on Wednesday.

Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer (left) was sent off for a second yellow card after a clash with Basaksehir's Morhav Aydin.

FOCO

FIFA asked to review controversial handball rule, UEFA confirm

UEFA has asked FIFA president Gianni Infantino to review the controversial handball rule, which obliges referees and players to consult the video assistant referee (VAR) before disallowing goals or calling players for fouls.

In a letter to Infantino, UEFA chief Aleksander Ceferin called for the handball rule to be suspended until football’s lawmakers adjust the procedure. Ceferin wrote to Infantino as it is the FIFA-controlled game”. Ceferin wrote to Infantino as it is the FIFA-controlled game”. Ceferin wrote to Infantino as it is the FIFA-controlled game”. Ceferin wrote to Infantino as it is the FIFA-controlled game”. Ceferin wrote to Infantino as it is the FIFA-controlled game”. Ceferin wrote to Infantino as it is the FIFA-controlled game”. Ceferin wrote to Infantino as it is the FIFA-controlled game”. Ceferin wrote to Infantino as it is the FIFA-controlled game”. Ceferin wrote to Infantino as it is the FIFA-controlled game”.

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Nadal overcomes Thompson scare to reach quarters

Tennis

Spanish Rafael Nadal overcame Ukrainian Daniil Medvedev in the quarter-finals of the Australian Open on Wednesday to reach his 1000th career victory by winning the fifth set 6-2, 6-4, 6-7(5), 2-6, 6-4. The match lasted nearly four and a half hours.


Colcorming as Roglic retains lead on rain-lashed day

Cycling

Roglic retains the race leader's red jersey after winning the 15th stage of the Vuelta a Espana on Wednesday. InJumbo-Visma rider Primoz Roglic won the stage to take the overall lead in the race. The day's stage was shortened due to bad weather conditions.


Cycling

Roglic celebrates on the podium with the overall leader's red jersey after winning the 15th stage of the Vuelta a Espana on Wednesday.


FOCUS

Gymnastics meet a test of Tokyo's readiness

Tokyo

The sport that was set to return in 2021 after a year's postponement and then again this month is now facing a fresh challenge: the delayed Olympics. The Tokyo 2020 organizers are set to host the gymnastics competition in November, which is seen as a key test for the games' readiness.


CAS expects decision on Russian appeal against ban by end 2020

Russia

The CAS (Court of Arbitration for Sport) is expected to deliver a decision on Russia's appeal against a four-year ban by the end of this year. The Russian Olympic Committee (ROC) has appealed against the ban, which was imposed by the IOC (International Olympic Committee) in 2018.


**Tennis**

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Red Sox meet with Cora about managerial opening

F

Fernando Red Sox manager Alex Cora met in person with the team’s 2003 World Series baseball Rookie of the Year franchise, Chaim Bloom, and general man-ager of Baseball Operations, the Boston Globe reported Wednesday, but the possibility that Cora would return to the job he held in the 2018 and 2019 seasons remains tenu-ous. According to Bloom, who met with another managerial candidate, mak- ing it clear that even if Cora is not named the new Red Sox skipper, Tuesday’s meeting was not simply a formality.

According to the Globe, Cora is one of nine candidates the team’s chief baseball officer, Alex Cora, met in person with the team in a statement on Jan. 14, Red Sox. We are grateful for his impact on our franchise. We are looking forward to the next steps.

None of those candidates has experi- ence managing a Major League team, but the Red Sox have to be concerned about the impact they will have on the hinges of the club going forward, and that is what the new manager will have to do.

“We are grateful for his impact on our franchise,” Bloom said. “We believe that is what the new manager will have to do.”

The Red Sox hired Cora as manager in 2018 after Boston’s World Series-winning team was embroiled in the Astros’ scheme to steal signs en route to the playoffs. There is no indication of when Cora will be introduced as the club’s new manager. The Red Sox have not made a managerial change since 2001, when they fired Grady Little.

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All Blacks vow no let-up as they seek win over Wallabies

"IT'S A REAL FOCUS FOR THIS TEAM TO TRY TO KEEP LIFTING IT'S PERFORMANCE." 

Sexton revealed he had apologised to Farrell and it was "time to draw a line under the Ireland stuff I have apologised and won't be apologising again".

"These are not going to change overnight and I’ve got to work on making sure it doesn’t happen again," Sexton said.

"It was 100 percent a storm in a teacup. Johnny is a passionate guy and it was a bit counter-productive."

"I am not going to sit here and say I was wrong and I need to say I was right," Sexton said.

"Johnny is the best to knock the All Blacks over and we all know that he had the chance of doing it," Rennie said.

"We need Johnny to be himself and there is always going to be learnings along the way but we have to remember the guy has been at the top of his game for so many years and the person who has been at the top of his game doesn’t have to please everyone," Farrell said.

"There is no denying that there were some negative comments during the time I was captain," Farrell said.

"When I was replaced by Ross Byrne a lot of people decided to Farrell and it was 'time to move on'."
Hyderabad look to continue winning run against Bangalore

Bangalore have suffered four consecutive defeats and last tasted a victory against Kolkata Knight Riders nearly two weeks ago.

Hyderabad won the last T20 encounter with RCB winning by 10 runs.

RCB have yet to break the jinx of winning in the two big matches against Hyderabad, however, they do have a lot of good players to choose from.

RCB would be confident of winning their next encounter with Hyderabad. 

RCB's top-order has been impressive in recent matches. Yuzvendra Chahal and Ab de Villiers have scored 472 runs in 14 matches. The team has been on the back foot in the middle overs. Mohammed Siraj has been the most consistent bowler for the team.

RCB would have to avoid a collapse like the one against Delhi Capitals in their last match. The team has to focus on building a stable innings in the middle overs.

Hyderabad has a good bowling attack with Yuzvendra Chahal, Navdeep Saini, Mohammed Siraj, and Trent Boult. However, they have to be careful against the middle-order batters.

RCB's middle-order batters have scored 472 runs in 14 matches. The team has to focus on building a stable innings in the middle overs.

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As a proud Iraqi and a member of the Iraqi national team, how excited are you to see the next FIFA World Cup take place in Qatar in 2022?

As a proud Iraqi and a member of the Iraqi national team, how excited are you to see the next FIFA World Cup take place in Qatar in 2022?

I think a lot of people are going to be blown away by the culture of the Middle East, along with the magnificent buildings and, of course, the passion for football. The Asian Cup in 2019 in Australia, we went from playing in Wellington, to Sydney, to Toyota, to Newcastle. After every game we were packing our bags, getting on flights, traveling around the region. It's a little unsettling when you're constantly on the move. Qatar's visa is a small bonus for teams. They will be staying put and won't need to travel to different cities. Qatar will have a lot of great venues on a rotational basis. Fans will be experiencing the Middle East for the first time and enjoying the football. All in all, a very positive period of view, what can these fans expect from the World Cup in Qatar?

A lot of great stadiums, some fantastic football, great food and a lot of things that will surprise you as a tourist. I think everyone will see the passion for the game. Then there's the culture and the way people live. It's a very simple life for the people there. Great hospitality, a warm welcome. It's the perfect place to host the World Cup. It's going to be a fantastic tournament.

The things that will surprise you as a tourist? I think it's very important. A lot of matches? It's going to be an exciting time. It's going to be a fantastic tournament. I think the fans will really enjoy it. It's going to be a fantastic tournament for all the teams in the World Cup, and help from step back.

Finally, how much of a goal is it to win the World Cup in Qatar?

No, it's definitely not. It's too distant for us to see it as a goal. From my perspective, it's going to be a fantastic tournament. Dubai is the perfect place to host the World Cup. It's going to be a fantastic tournament. People will be surprised in one location throughout the tournament. How much will it change in the region? It will avoid long travel times between locations.

Now playing his trade with Al-Maktoum- trained Soldierpoy, the 4-year-old started at odds of 7-1. Soldierpoy, however, held on by a quarter of a length-and-a-half.

The US-born midfielder – a US international – has settled in well since arriving in the region, having visited and played in the country on various occasions during his international career. To an exclusive interview with qatar2022.qa, Meram gave insight into what fans can expect from the World Cup, and how it will be for the players to be in post condition.

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When Qatar was awarded the World Cup, what was the reaction of football fans in Iraq?

Qatar 2022 will be held in November and December. How does that affect the players and fans?

From my perspective, it's going to raise the level of play. The tournament will be perfect for football and I think most of the players will be in post condition.

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Interview with Justin Meram, an Iraq international, for ‘Manchester Evening News’.