Edmison scores brace as Al Duhail rout Al Ittihad

A.Q.F. STAR LEAGUE

Al Ittihad climb to second place after an own goal helps them to a lucky victory over Al Wakrah

By Sports Reporter

AL ITTIDAD did nothing but deserve to update its name with a draw in the A.Q.F. Star League today to strengthen its position in the top three. The visitors from the south of the country have been the target of criticism for their tendency to play below their potential and today's result is seen as a step towards recovery.

The first half was a seesaw affair with both sides creating chances. Al Ittihad had the better of the early exchanges, with Edmison and Al Kaabi both on target, but their efforts were saved by the goalkeeper. Al Duhail, on the other hand, had the better chances, with Al Shbibi and Al Alif both hitting the bar.

In the second half, the tide turned in favour of Al Duhail. Edmison, who had been limping towards the end of the first half, was replaced by Al Kaabi. The substitution seemed to lift the team and Al Duhail started to dominate.

A spectacular shot from inside the Al Ittihad box, the move was blocked by Hafeezing a tight angle on the follow-up.

Three minutes into the second half, Edmison, after breaking into the Al Ittihad box, was brought down by Ismail Al Qahtan. Some controversy surrounded the decision, with Al Ittihad's frustration evident.

Laydani reduced the margin of defeat to 2-1, with a well-taken free-kick from the penalty spot. Al Shbibi's effort was parried by the goalkeeper. Al Duhail's Al Kaabi had a couple of efforts but both were saved.

In the 90th minute, Al Duhail went 3-0 down after Al Shbibi's equalising goal. Al Ittihad's Al Kaabi had a couple of efforts but both were saved.

Meanwhile, Al Wakrah climbed to second place after an own goal helped them to a lucky victory over Al Ittihad in the A.Q.F. Star League.

By Sports Reporter

A tough start for Blanc as Al Rayyan take on Al Sadd in Qatar Clasico

Lorenzo Blanc couldn't have asked for a tougher start to his reign as Al Rayyan manager as the club opened their Gulf Times Cup campaign with a draw against Al Sadd in the Gulf Times Cup Round of 16. The result leaves Blanc with a lot to ponder ahead of the upcoming round.

Blanc, who has been in charge of the team for just over six months, took over from Adil Rami at the end of last season. His first competitive match in charge was against Al Sadd in last month's 0-0 draw.

Blanc was expected to make some changes to the team, but the starting lineup was the same as the previous game, with only two changes being made.

"It will be a tough test for our team," Blanc said before the match. "We have to work hard and keep our heads up. We need to be patient and work hard on our game plan. If we can keep our shape and keep the ball, we will have a good chance of winning.

"The Gulf Times Cup is a very important tournament for us. We want to win it and make it the first step towards securing a place in the group stage of the Champions League."
Lille are still top of Ligue 1 despite boardroom chaos

Lille lost their recent win this week but their draw against PSG maintained their position at the top of the league.

By Adam Wells and Eric Berlin

T

T

he return of football during the second half of 2020 following the COVID-19 pandemic was more of a return to normalcy than a return to normal. The pandemic had a significant impact on virtually every aspect of life, including sports. European competitions were rescheduled and suspended. However, the return of the matches was a welcomed sight for football fans around the world. Lille’s ambitious project under Gaetan Greve was one that many people were excited to see come to fruition. Perhaps most surprising, Lille’s manager in their first game against PSG on Sunday was in their front row among the fans!

Among Europe’s top league managers, Lille is a relatively under-the-radar team. However, other clubs continued their momentum throughout the season despite the challenges posed by the pandemic. The club has been consistent in their performance, helping them maintain their status as one of the top teams in the league. Some football fans remained skeptical, but the club’s success continued to defy expectations. The game against PSG on Sunday was a testament to their resilience and determination.

Spotlight

Bundesliga

Leverkusen's Bender twins return at end of season

Former Bundestrainer

German's future Surfing twins Lars and Fend Bender will hang with that board after he returns from his season-ending surgery. The former German international, who was named reserve player for the German men's national team in 2018, is expected to continue playing professionally at the same high level as before recovering his injuries in recent weeks.

"We did the right thing in this to take action," he said in a statement. "This decision has been anything but easy for me or my family. But I feel better and I am happy. But I understand the situation."

"I'm looking forward to the day when I return to play and that I will once again feel like myself."

Al-Thawadi meets Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation Di Maio

Al-Thawadi shared a message of appreciation for the Italian government's support, highlighting the role of Italy in promoting peace and cooperation. Di Maio expressed his gratitude for the warm reception he received in Qatar, emphasizing the importance of fostering strong ties with the host country. The meeting aimed to strengthen bilateral relations and enhance cooperation in various fields, including sports and diplomacy.

Bundesliga

Leverkusen's Bender twins return at end of season

Former Bundestrainer

German's future Surfing twins Lars and Fend Bender will hang with that board after he returns from his season-ending surgery. The former German international, who was named reserve player for the German men's national team in 2018, is expected to continue playing professionally at the same high level as before recovering his injuries in recent weeks.

"We did the right thing in this to take action," he said in a statement. "This decision has been anything but easy for me or my family. But I feel better and I am happy. But I understand the situation."

"I'm looking forward to the day when I return to play and that I will once again feel like myself."

Al-Thawadi meets Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation Di Maio

Al-Thawadi shared a message of appreciation for the Italian government's support, highlighting the role of Italy in promoting peace and cooperation. Di Maio expressed his gratitude for the warm reception he received in Qatar, emphasizing the importance of fostering strong ties with the host country. The meeting aimed to strengthen bilateral relations and enhance cooperation in various fields, including sports and diplomacy.

Bundesliga

Leverkusen's Bender twins return at end of season

Former Bundestrainer

German's future Surfing twins Lars and Fend Bender will hang with that board after he returns from his season-ending surgery. The former German international, who was named reserve player for the German men's national team in 2018, is expected to continue playing professionally at the same high level as before recovering his injuries in recent weeks.

"We did the right thing in this to take action," he said in a statement. "This decision has been anything but easy for me or my family. But I feel better and I am happy. But I understand the situation."

"I'm looking forward to the day when I return to play and that I will once again feel like myself."

Al-Thawadi meets Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation Di Maio

Al-Thawadi shared a message of appreciation for the Italian government's support, highlighting the role of Italy in promoting peace and cooperation. Di Maio expressed his gratitude for the warm reception he received in Qatar, emphasizing the importance of fostering strong ties with the host country. The meeting aimed to strengthen bilateral relations and enhance cooperation in various fields, including sports and diplomacy.

Bundesliga

Leverkusen's Bender twins return at end of season

Former Bundestrainer

German's future Surfing twins Lars and Fend Bender will hang with that board after he returns from his season-ending surgery. The former German international, who was named reserve player for the German men's national team in 2018, is expected to continue playing professionally at the same high level as before recovering his injuries in recent weeks.

"We did the right thing in this to take action," he said in a statement. "This decision has been anything but easy for me or my family. But I feel better and I am happy. But I understand the situation."

"I'm looking forward to the day when I return to play and that I will once again feel like myself."

Al-Thawadi meets Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation Di Maio

Al-Thawadi shared a message of appreciation for the Italian government's support, highlighting the role of Italy in promoting peace and cooperation. Di Maio expressed his gratitude for the warm reception he received in Qatar, emphasizing the importance of fostering strong ties with the host country. The meeting aimed to strengthen bilateral relations and enhance cooperation in various fields, including sports and diplomacy.
Abraham’s brace helps Chelsea sink West Ham

It was nice to see that at the end because we had a tough period at 1-0 but we dealt with that well

**LEAGUE CUP**

Stoke will be pushovers for Spurs, warns Mourinho

J

Man United fans have said their “fingers are crossed” that the League Cup could provide a chance for Chelsea to overcome the Blues’ Premier League struggles. The Blues have been inconsistent this season, but Mourinho believes there is a chance for them to bounce back.

**SERIE A**

Napoli win appeal over Juventus no-show

N

**CHAMPIONS LEAGUE**

Chile win 2-1 over France in friendly

The Chilean national team won their friendly against France 2-1 on Tuesday night.

**SPITFIRE BATTLE**

Get your British rowing fix with Blaydon Breakdown’s guide to the World Rowing Championships.

**NEWCASTLE V FULHAM**

Get your Newcastle United vs Fulham Premier League preview here.
スポットライト

Rizwan-inspired Pakistan stop NZ Twenty20 sweep

I never thought I'd be made the captain of Pakistan. Can't explain my happiness

ムシャルフ・バサル

Muhammad Wasim celebrates his elevation to the captaincy in style yesterday, reaching a score of 94 in a Twenty20 match against New Zealand. The wicketkeeper-batsman started his innings with a century, scoring 100 runs in the first over. The Pakistani opener captained the team to victory, scoring 110 runs in the match. The win was Pakistan’s second successive Twenty20 victory, following their win against New Zealand in their previous match.

Ishna Shabir

Shahid Afridi, who scored a century in the first Twenty20 against New Zealand, praised Wasim’s performance. "Wasim has a fantastic batting average and has been a key player for Pakistan in recent years," Afridi said. "I’m confident that he will lead the team to victory in the upcoming matches." Afridi also added that Wasim has a good attitude and is a great team player.

Pakistan’s victory was sealed off with a boundary hit by Shoaib Malik, who also scored a century, to secure the win for Pakistan. Wasim’s century was a testament to his ability as a batsman and a leader, and it will undoubtedly boost the team’s morale ahead of the upcoming matches.

Pakistan’s historic Twenty20 sweep

Pakistan’s Twenty20 sweep against New Zealand was a historic achievement for the team. Led by Wasim, Pakistan won all three matches in the series, securing a 3-0 clean sweep in Twenty20 cricket. This is the first time Pakistan have won all three matches in a Twenty20 series. The victory was a testament to Pakistan’s ability to bounce back from recent losses and put up a strong showing in the international arena.

Injury not a problem for Smith ahead of 2nd Test

Don Bradman's debut 'baggy green' cap sold for record Aust$500,000

Australian captain Tim Paine and New Zealand's captain Tom Latham have both been ruled out of the second Test due to injury. Paine, who had a back injury in the first Test, is expected to miss the remainder of the series. He has been replaced by Matthew Wade, who has played three Tests for Australia in the past.

New Zealand's captain Tom Latham is also ruled out of the second Test due to a broken finger. He has been replaced by Devon Conway, who is making his debut for New Zealand. Conway has played for the New Zealand Under-19 team and has been called up to the senior squad.

Indian pacer Shami advised 6 weeks rest, to fly out to India today

Indian pacer Mohammed Shami, who was ruled out of the second Test due to an injury, has been advised by the BCCI medical team to take a six-week break. Shami sustained a back injury during the first Test and was ruled out of the second Test. He was advised to rest for six weeks to allow his back to recover fully.

Shami’s injury is a huge blow for India ahead of the upcoming series against Australia. India will also be missing Shikhar Dhawan, who is recovering from a back injury. India will have to rely on Umesh Yadav and Jasprit Bumrah to fill the void left by Shami.

Santer urged to be more attacking if given Test nod

New Zealand coach Gary Stead has called for Martin Guptill to be more aggressive if he is given the Test nod. Guptill has not played a Test for New Zealand since 2019 and Stead believes he needs to be more attacking if he is to be considered for the Test team.

Stead said: "Martin has been consistently outstanding in domestic cricket and has been in great form in recent months. He needs to be more aggressive if he is to be considered for the Test team." Guptill has scored 10 first-class centuries in the past year and has averaged over 50 in domestic cricket.

Bottomline

Australia will be without Steve Smith for the second Test against New Zealand due to a hand injury. Smith sustained the injury while batting in the first Test and is expected to miss the remainder of the series.

Smith's injury is a huge blow for Australia ahead of the upcoming series against New Zealand. Australia will also be missing Mitchell Starc, who is recovering from a finger injury. Australia will have to rely on Pat Cummins and Mitchell Marsh to fill the void left by Smith and Starc.
**FOCUS**

NBA won’t jump ‘the line’ for Covid vaccine: Silver

It’s our plan to be involved with public messaging as to the benefit of taking the vaccine

**OPPORTUNITY**

NHL teams could raise $15mn through helmet ads: report

**SPOTLIGHT**

Clippers’ Kennard agrees to four-year, $64mn extension

**SHOTPUT**

Bucks lose 2022 second-round pick for jumping free agency talks

**Silver adds potential NBA extension has been addressed**

With the implementation of an escrow-like 5% escrow on player extensions, something that has been discussed in previous years, the NBA and players had agreed to forgo an escrow in the players’ recent position that had been on the table. It had consumed the negotiations of extending the current contract of health and safety protocols put in place to mitigate the risk from the virus.

The NBA, formerly known for its strict protocols, has been working on reducing the risk of a second wave by implementing practices such as no contact practices and social distancing.

**NEW**

There’s a good chance that the NBA will continue to extend the current contract beyond 2022-23, with the league reportedly exploring a deal that would keep players on the court for the duration of the pandemic.

The NBA has been working on reducing the risk of a second wave by implementing practices such as no contact practices and social distancing.

**NBA Nzegwu**

With the NBA extending the current contract, it seems likely that a deal will be reached.

The NBA’s decision to extend the current contract beyond 2022-23 is a sign that the league is committed to keeping players on the court for the duration of the pandemic.
**NFL**

**Bengals send Steelers to third straight loss**

Pittsburgh miss a chance to clinch the AFC North title

Cincinnati Bengals running back Giovani Bernard (25) runs past Pittsburgh Steelers defensive end Cameron Heyward (97) for a touchdown during the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Dec. 20, 2020, in Cincinnati. (AP Photo/Aaron Doster)

**FOCUS**

**Four teams get seven Pro Bowl selections**

The Packers also had four players chosen for Pro Bowl, featuring quarterback Aaron Rodgers, wide receiver Davante Adams, offensive tackle David Bakhtiari, linebacker Clay Matthews, outside linebacker Jordan Love and cornerback Josh Jackson. Matthews and Love were both selected to their fourth Pro Bowl in a row, while Bakhtiari and Jackson were both selected to their first Pro Bowls.

Rodgers and Bakhtiari were both key contributors to the Packers' defense. Rodgers completed 32 of 40 passes for 360 yards and three touchdowns, while Bakhtiari had a strong game, making up for the absence of veteran defensive end Za'Darius Smith, who is out with a neck injury.

The Packers' defense allowed just 14 points, while the offense scored 27, setting up a close win for the Packers. The game was decided by the Packers' defense, which forced five turnovers and held the Browns to just 211 yards of total offense.

**BASEBALL**

**Washington Nationals hero Kendrick retires after 15 seasons**

Kendrick, a two-time NL batting champion, spent his entire 15-year career with the Nationals after being traded from the Mariners in 2007. In six seasons with Washington, Kendrick batted .300 or better in three seasons and won the NL batting title in 2010.

**YEARENDER**

**Astros take villain role, Dodgers snap title drought**

The Houston Astros have been branded as cheaters, a World Series champion, and a team with a long list of negative stories. Now the team is trying to move past the cheating scandal as they prepare to enter the playoffs.

The team was embroiled in a cheating scandal during the 2017 season when it was discovered that the team had used a sign-stealing system to get information on opposing pitchers. The team was ultimately punished with a 51-game suspension, which ended with the firing of manager A.J. Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow.

The team is now headed by new manager Dusty Baker, who has been with the team for seven seasons. Baker is replacing Hinch, who was fired after the team was found to be cheating.

The team has been working hard to move past the cheating scandal and focus on the upcoming season, which starts on Friday against the Chicago White Sox.

The team has been working hard to move past the cheating scandal and focus on the upcoming season, which starts on Friday against the Chicago White Sox.

The team has been working hard to move past the cheating scandal and focus on the upcoming season, which starts on Friday against the Chicago White Sox.
Tokyo Olympics unveil final budget of $15.9 billion

A poll last week showed that a majority of Japanese oppose holding the Tokyo Games next year.

SPOTLIGHT

Tokyo Olympics unveil final budget of $15.9 billion

A poll last week showed that a majority of Japanese oppose holding the Tokyo Games next year.

SPOTLIGHT

RFU concussion figures second highest of all time

O

o in the professional union

rugby

season in anger, the

London Irish was charged

by the Rugby Football Union

for alleged ‘shoving’ and

‘charging’ during the match

against Yorkshire Carnegie.

The Rugby Football Union –

represented by the number of

player minutes of playing time

lost – was the second highest

for the second successive year,

the RFU and the Welsh Rugby

Union in 2016.

The study found in the

course of several upper limbs

taking legal action against World Rugby, the RFU and the

Welsh Rugby Union in 2016.

The study found in the

course of several upper limbs

taking legal action against World Rugby, the RFU and the

Welsh Rugby Union in 2016.

The study found in the

course of several upper limbs

taking legal action against World Rugby, the RFU and the

Welsh Rugby Union in 2016.

The study found in the

course of several upper limbs

taking legal action against World Rugby, the RFU and the

Welsh Rugby Union in 2016.

The study found in the

course of several upper limbs

taking legal action against World Rugby, the RFU and the

Welsh Rugby Union in 2016.

The study found in the

course of several upper limbs

taking legal action against World Rugby, the RFU and the

Welsh Rugby Union in 2016.

The study found in the

course of several upper limbs

taking legal action against World Rugby, the RFU and the

Welsh Rugby Union in 2016.

The study found in the

course of several upper limbs

taking legal action against World Rugby, the RFU and the

Welsh Rugby Union in 2016.

The study found in the

course of several upper limbs

taking legal action against World Rugby, the RFU and the

Welsh Rugby Union in 2016.

The study found in the

course of several upper limbs

taking legal action against World Rugby, the RFU and the

Welsh Rugby Union in 2016.

The study found in the

course of several upper limbs

taking legal action against World Rugby, the RFU and the

Welsh Rugby Union in 2016.

The study found in the

course of several upper limbs

taking legal action against World Rugby, the RFU and the

Welsh Rugby Union in 2016.
**SPORT**

**Ladies first at QOC Beach Games**

The-Skye-Thomson-Athletes

The 2023 QOC Beach Games have been attracting crowds at the Aspen
Domes over 200,000 athletes are present in the first edition of the event this year.

In beach handball, athletes were dominant in their first matches of the day as they pushed a 2-0 result towards victory. The USA herself was the

**SPOTLIGHT**

**A year of activism & campaigns**

The killing of unarmed Black man George Floyd during his arrest by Minneapolis police was the catalyst for a wave of protests against systemic racism and police brutality.

**BLACK LIVES MATTER**

**DJOKOVIC WITHDRAWS FROM ATP PLAYER COUNCIL POLLS**

**TOP STORY**

**BOTTOMLINE**

**A year of activism & campaigns**

The killing of unarmed Black man George Floyd during his arrest by Minneapolis police was the catalyst for a wave of protests against systemic racism and police brutality.

**BLACK LIVES MATTER**

**DJOKOVIC WITHDRAWS FROM ATP PLAYER COUNCIL POLLS**

**BOTTOMLINE**

**A year of activism & campaigns**

The killing of unarmed Black man George Floyd during his arrest by Minneapolis police was the catalyst for a wave of protests against systemic racism and police brutality.

**BLACK LIVES MATTER**

**DJOKOVIC WITHDRAWS FROM ATP PLAYER COUNCIL POLLS**

**BOTTOMLINE**

**A year of activism & campaigns**

The killing of unarmed Black man George Floyd during his arrest by Minneapolis police was the catalyst for a wave of protests against systemic racism and police brutality.

**BLACK LIVES MATTER**

**DJOKOVIC WITHDRAWS FROM ATP PLAYER COUNCIL POLLS**

**BOTTOMLINE**

**A year of activism & campaigns**

The killing of unarmed Black man George Floyd during his arrest by Minneapolis police was the catalyst for a wave of protests against systemic racism and police brutality.

**BLACK LIVES MATTER**

**DJOKOVIC WITHDRAWS FROM ATP PLAYER COUNCIL POLLS**

**BOTTOMLINE**