Al Sadd, Persepolis braced for tough test in last 16 tie

Qatar’s most successful side in the Champions League boast the strongest attack in the competition with 14 goals so far

**FOOTBALL / AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE**

**FOCUS**

Pakhtakor rally against Esteghlal to seal last eight spot

Two minutes before the end of the half, Fakhreddine scored their equaliser. Amedo Sunday drilled a pass into the path of Dennis to create a big chance for the Tunisian to open the scoring. A poor defensive decision by the Ivorian led to the equaliser, which was scored in the 42nd minute.

Batshuayi’s goal for Al Sadd, sending Persepolis into their first-ever final.

Today’s match will be the seventh encounter between Persepolis and Al Sadd. The Iranian club hold a marginal historical advantage with three wins to Al Sadd’s two victories, while the two sides have not met in the AFC Champions League knockout stage since 2009.

**FOOTBALL / AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE**

Al Sadd coach Xavi Hernandez and (below) Persepolis coach Yahya Golmohammadi.
Al Ahli edge Shabab Al Ahli on penalties to reach quarters

The two teams were locked at 11-1 after regulation and extra time before Al Ahli won 4-3 on penalties.

FOOTBALL / AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

A

Al Ahli south FC advanced to the 2020 AFC Champions League Round of 16 on Monday after beating Shabab Al Duhail FC 4-3 on penalties after the game ended 1-1 in extra time.

Two goals in a five-minute span down the right and driving through the penalty box to score the only goal of the game, made the save.

On the other hand, Al Ahli will now face the champion of the AFC Champions League Group Stage, which will be determined after the group stage matches are completed.

Familiar rivals Al Nasr, Al Taawon set for Round of 16 match-up

Al Nasr and Al Taawon are set to clash in the Round of 16 of the 2020 AFC Champions League today, with the winner advancing to the quarter-finals.

Racing nine fouls

The match was marked by a significant number of fouls, with 25 fouls committed by both teams, including 11 from Al Ahli and 14 from Shabab Al Ahli.

One thing that will have more pressure on us is that we must not give up until the last minute of the game,” said Al Ahli coach Vladan Milojevic.

I cannot say I know a lot about Al Nasr, plenty of things have changed since I coached them. I know there are changes in their management and in my opinion they are now in a good position for the title run.

In the meantime, Shabab Al Ahli looked to have the better chances and appeared to be the more aggressive team.

The Syrian forward unleashed a shot high.

Pepe had two good opportunities in the second half, finding space inside the box and striking a nodded pass from Moqahwi inside the box, the latter of which was tipped over the crossbar for Shabab Al Ahli.

The former striker gave Al Ahli a three-vs-two advantage on the left wing and the winger set up Shalhoub from the edge of the box but narrowly missed the target. Ehabrani raced into the penalty box and struck a volley, but his attempt was bravely saved, ending up wide.

The Syrian forward unleashed a shot from the edge of the penalty area.

Coach Vladan Milojevic’s words at the break seemed to have worked magic as Al Ahli restored the three-goal lead.

With caution taking over the game, both teams will have a chance and will want to take their chances.

This will be the Buraidah-based club’s first appearance in the AFC Champions League, in what is only their second participation in the competition after a group stage appearance.

The Riyadh-based side have emerged 4-2 winners on aggregate to Iran’s Persepolis, having had their hopes dashed in last year’s Round of 16 match in Education City Stadium.

The two sides have never met in continental competition before, but the past 10 domestic rivalry matches between them were won by Al Ahli, including a 3-1 victory in the Super Cup.

Both teams will have a chance to progress to the next round, but the Syrian international remains confident that his side will be the team to emerge victorious.

“We will need to be on top of our game, you cannot attack all the time or defend all the time. Both sides will have a chance and will want to take their chances,” said the coach.

Despite his technical knockdown loss to logarithm, Al Dhaheri had shown that he was capable of challenging the best in the world. Gaither said: ‘I am feeling all the confidence that I feel, and I feel better than I have ever felt in my life’. Gaither scored first.

With the score 4-3, Al Ahli were down to ten men.

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A

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Gary Calhoun

The match will take place in Doha, Qatar, on Thursday and is expected to attract a large crowd despite the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

The Wallabies are expected to return to full strength for the match, with halfback Luke Srama and centre Andrew Sadler also available.

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Chelsea stage superb fightback to earn West Brom draw

MANCHESTER UNITED WIN SNATCH AT BRAMALL LANE

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FOOTBALL
Suarez can take Atletico to a different level, says Simeone

"His arrival is an opportunity for us to keep growing as a club and to have new energy"
**BASKETBALL**

**Celtics rally to beat Heat, stay alive in NBA playoffs**

We got back to playing Celtics basketball

The Boston Celtics scored an incredible 41 points in the third quarter to blow the game open, making it their first win of the series and setting up an Eastern Conference finals showdown with the Miami Heat.

Heat defense held the Celtics to 24 points in the first half, but Boston exploded for 37 points in the third quarter, extending their lead to 93-77. Hayward and Tatum scored 17 points apiece in the third quarter, while LeVert added 11 points.

**NLH**

**Marlins clip Yanks in 10, clinch playoff spot**

**New York**

**Pitcher**

Marlins' Sandy Alomar Jr. became the first manager in the franchise's 60-year history to lead his team into the playoffs.

The Miami Marlins clinched a wildcard berth with a 10-5 win over the New York Yankees, clinching a spot in the NL East.

The win comes after the Yankees lost to the Seattle Mariners, allowing the Marlins to advance into the final game of the regular season with a chance to win.

**NEW YORK**

*Reuters*

The Marlins (30-28) had a 10-0 lead over the New York Yankees on Friday night at Yankee Stadium.

J.T. Realmuto hit a three-run homer in the eighth off Yimi Garcia.

The Marlins went on to win 10-5, with two more runs scored in the ninth.

The Yankees (47-34) managed just two hits, including a solo home run by Gleyber Torres.

The win moves the Marlins to 6-0 in their last six games, including a 2-0 record against the Yankees.

**SCHEDULE**

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**Shattenkirk's goal lifts Lightning to verge of title**

**Tampa Bay**

Tampa Bay Lightning's Kevin Shattenkirk (22) celebrates with Defenseman Victor Hedman after scoring game-winning goal against the Dallas Stars during the overtime period in game four of the 2020 Stanley Cup Final at Rogers Arena in Edmonton, Alberta. (Gulf Times)
**FOCUS**

Gill and Morgan star in Kolkata win over Hyderabad

‘He's good kid, very hungry to learn and I would love to bat with him once again’

SDhawan Gill of Kolkata Knight Riders celebrates his half-century against Sunrisers Hyderabad at Dubai yesterday. PICTURE: Sportzpics for BCCI

**BOTTOMLINE**

CSK in muddle with misfiring spinners, says coach Fleming

Russian athletes body given 5-month extension for anti-doping plan

Heads-up for a week's cricket in the face of some tight Kiwi bowling

The 33-year-old Sharma led Rajasthan Royals to a massive 291 in the opening match of the IPL 2020 in Dubai yesterday.

**PREVIEW**

On-a-roll Kings XI face confident Rajasthan Royals

Kings XI Punjab

**On the second over, Karthik, who was looking good, played a loose shot and got out caught at mid-off by Shikhar Dhawan.**

Kings XI Punjab spinners Nathan Coulter-Nile and Harpreet Brar were left to do work in the middle-order and they needed to make sure some wickets don't fall.

In their first game, Rajasthan Royals began well and even the visitors were looking good after taking two quick wickets with the run rate touching 10 for 2. Later, the Royals' batsmen pushed the run rate to a very healthy 13 for 2. At the end of the powerplay, the Rajasthan Royals were at 53 for 2.

Kolkata bowler Chris Green got off to a flyer as he bowled Gatting for a duck.

**Schutt, Gardner guide Australia to 2-wicket win over New Zealand in 2nd T20I**

The Australians won by two wickets with four balls to spare as they sealed the five-match series 2-1.

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The Russian athletics body has been given a five-month extension to prepare for the World Championships.

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It’s nice being on pole but probably here is the worst place to be on pole...
SPORT

The 2020 renewal of the Qatar Arabian World Cup (Gr1 PA) was run over 2,000m as a highlight of the Qatar Arabian Trophy Day at ParisLongchamp on Sunday, October 4. The rescheduled tournament pushed back four months due to the Covid-19 outbreak, will begin in wet and blustery conditions with temperatures at 10°C (50°F) accompanied by winds of up to 50mph.

“The cold is from LA and I’m in Florida. For building reasons, you need to build races in the weather and we do that never. That’s my Achilles heel,” joked Williams. “I’m not dealing with it. I’m having a positive attitude about it.”

HORSE RACING

QREC Renaissance Stakes goes to Ventura Rebel

The Qatar Racing and Equestrian Club Renaissance Stakes (Gr3 PA) will be run over 2,000m as part of Qatar Arabian Trophy Day at ParisLongchamp on Sunday, October 4.

SPORT

SPOTLIGHT

Eleven stand up in the Qatar Racing and Equestrian Club's Renaissance Stakes, a Grade 3 for 3-year-olds and up, which is sponsored by the QREC Renaissance Stakes goes to Ventura Rebel.

FOCUS

Svitolda battles past Rybakina to claim Strasbourg title

The Russian battled through to her third final in as many years in a 2-hour 4-minutes 47-seconds triumph.

RUBLEV REACHES THIRD FINAL IN HAMBURG

Second seed Rublev, who won the 2019 French Open junior title, will return to Island Gardens next week on the back of his third final in as many years.

W

The entry list for the 2020 WTA 1000 is due to be released. Zverev, Medvedev, Thiem, Tsitsipas, and Djokovic will head the list. However, Thiem, Zverev, and Rublev are still in action at the ATP Finals in London. The entry list for the 2020 WTA 1000 is due to be released.

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