Second seed Pliskova fights back in her opener from a set down to set up second round tie with former champ Ostapenko

**FOOTBALL / AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE**

Pliskova’s return to the main draw at a Slam, took a shock defeat. However, the Czech’s greater experience, energy and fight in this game, but it seemed as though Rublev was about to suffer a similar first-set fate to his fourth-seeded opponent. The 22-year-old had never been to this stage before, but he could not have imagined it was going to be so difficult.

**RESULT**

**Women (Round I)**

20 - Aliajja Cerar (MNE) bt Patricia Maria Tig (ROU) 6-4, 6-2; 21 - Caroline Wozniacki (DEN) bt Zarina Diyas (KAZ) 4-6, 6-3, 6-1; 22 - Elise Mertens (BEL) bt Magda Linette (POL) 6-1, 6-0; 23 - Jelena Ostapenko (LAT) bt Madison Brengle (USA) 6-2, 6-2; 24 - Karolina Pliskova (CZE) bt Victoria Azarenka (BLR) 6-2, 6-2, 6-4

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**SPORT**

Diomedic in cruise control at Roland Garros

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**FOOTBALL / AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE**

Pakhtakor (UZB) are hoping to reach the semi-finals after 12 years in the competition and the 2020 AFC Champions League quarter-final phase. Today’s game comes a day before their last 16 clash against Persepolis, which they need to win to advance to the semi-finals. The players wish a quick recovery to Pakhtakor head coach Shota Arveladze in the memory of his passing. The players dedicate the win to his soul.

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**French Open players under lockdown off-court**

For the first time since Roland Garros opened its doors in 1902, French Open players are being placed under lockdown off-court as authorities introduce new measures for the tournament amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

The French Open, which is set to begin on May 31, is one of the last major tennis tournaments scheduled to take place this year. With the French government imposing strict lockdown measures, it remains unclear whether the tournament will be able to go ahead as planned.

**MEASURES**

French Open players under lockdown off-court

**FOCUS**

**Inspired by Wozniacki, Danish teen Tauson plots own path to top**

The teenage Tauson has had a big impact on the WTA Tour this year, with a run to the semi-finals at the Australian Open and finalist appearances at both the French and US Opens.

Tauson is the younger sister of former world number one Caroline Wozniacki, who also reached the semi-finals at the Australian Open in 2018.

The Danish teenager has been inspired by her sister's success and is determined to follow in her footsteps.

**SPOTLIGHT**

**King Harris takes tennis message to townships**

A young tennis player from South Africa has taken his game to the townships, where he has inspired local children by showing them the sport can be a way out of poverty.

The teenager, who is supported by the tennis charity Black Cat Foundation, has been playing in townships where many children have never had the opportunity to play tennis before.

Harris has been able to use his experience on the court to encourage others to take up the sport and give them a chance to change their lives.
AFC CHAMPIONSHIP LEAGUE

Nassr, Ahli relying on familiarity to seal semi ticket

‘It is an advantage for both teams to face a fellow Saudi team’

Al-Nassr head coach Vladan Milojevic insists the familiarity of facing a fellow Saudi team will give his side a boost when they meet Al-Ittihad in the AFC Champions League semi-finals.

“It makes it easier for the players to look around the pitch and find where each other are,” Milojevic told Gulf Times before half-time, they

AFC CHAMPIONSHIP LEAGUE

Japenese Klop said Monday that he has been “blown away” by the response to an online appeal for fans to “keep the faith” in the club.

Klopp wrote on Twitter: “I’ve been blown away by the response to my recent appeal for fans to ‘keep the faith’. It has been overwhelming and

WAFFLE ARSENAL FAN

Gunners’ fans remain divided over Mikel Arteta’s tenure in charge of the club.

The majority of fans were divided over Arteta’s appointment as head coach in the summer of 2019, with some calling for his sacking and others in favour of giving him time to turn things around.

At the beginning of the season, there were high expectations for the team under Arteta, but poor results and lack of consistency have led to frustrated fans calling for his departure.

However, towards the end of the season, there was a noticeable improvement in the team’s performance, which led to some fans giving Arteta the benefit of the doubt.

This season, the Gunners have started well, winning the Community Shield against Chelsea and reaching the FA Cup final. However, their performances have not been consistent, with losses to strong opposition and draws in crucial games leading to some fans calling for Arteta’s departure again.

In summary, the fans remain divided over Arteta’s tenure, with some calling for his sacking and others giving him time to turn things around.

EPL

LeBlanc to talk gender equality on GA Live

Women’s football legend and Canada’s go-to-gal Karina LeBlanc will address a Generation Action webinar on Oct. 21.

The 39-year-old midfielder, who started her career with the Canadian national team in 2002 and played for the club team in Toronto, will discuss the importance of diversity and inclusion in all aspects of life.

LeBlanc will speak on gender equality and the role it plays in achieving social justice.

The webinar is part of Generation Action’s ongoing commitment to promote gender equality and social justice.

Generation Action is a non-profit organization that works to promote gender equality and social justice through education and community engagement.

In the past, Generation Action has worked with women’s organizations, schools, and communities to raise awareness about gender inequality and promote gender equality.

Their approach is to work with individuals, communities, and organizations to create a culture of gender equality and social justice.

This webinar is another step in their ongoing commitment to promote gender equality and social justice.

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Real don’t need any more players, says Zidane

**FOOTBALL**

**SPOTLIGHT**

**Villarreal’s Coquelin backs Man Utd for Super Cup**

Manchester United defender Eric Bailly is a doubt for Wednesday’s UEFA Super Cup final against Villarreal on Wednesday, the BBC reported.

Late on Monday night it was reported that the 2017 Champions League semi-final goalscorer had sustained contact with another player which resulted in a facial injury and was receiving treatment.

However, Villarreal midfielder Francis Coquelin has been quoted as saying that his Spanish club are “confident” that Bailly will be fit.

Coquelin said: “He’s had an impact, he’s had a hard time, but the medical staff are doing everything to get him ready for tomorrow. We’re going to play tomorrow, he’s doing things and running on the side. It’s a shame, but it’s a big problem for us. We’re going to try to find a solution.”

**Development**

Dortmund reject Man Utd’s offer for Sancho

Manchester United are expected to make a new bid for Jadon Sancho on Wednesday, the Daily Mail reported.

The English club have failed with two previous offers for the Dortmund winger, who is entering the final year of his contract at the Bundesliga club and is expected to seek a move to the Premier League this summer.

However, Dortmund are reportedly holding out for £100 million for the 20-year-old, who has been linked with Manchester United, Liverpool and Chelsea.

**FOCUS**

Bayern’s Sane to miss Super Cup, Alaba doubtful

Bayern Munich winger Leroy Sane has been ruled out of the German Super Cup against Borussia Dortmund on Wednesday due to a muscle tear in his left thigh.

Sane was forced off in the 55th minute of Bayern’s 5-0 win over Hertha Berlin at the weekend and was later seen in a medical center.

The 25-year-old has struggled with injuries since joining the Bundesliga champions from Manchester City for a reported £19 million three years ago.

He has made just 12 appearances for Bayern this season, scoring two goals and providing five assists.

**La Liga**

**Suarez, Costa can play together, says Simeone**

The important thing is that they play to the best of their abilities, Diego with his character, Suarez with his leadership

**Real Madrid’s Laszlo Szarvas reacts during the La Liga match against Real Betis on Sunday. (Reuters)**

Simeone has declared the Brazilian forwards, who are both in contention for starts for the Super Cup final at Wembley on Wednesday, ‘complementary’.

“Of course they can play together,” the 44-year-old former Roma captain said.

“They are different players. Diego likes to play down the wings and into the wide areas, while Luis is more of a box player. They can both score goals from outside the box, playing with his back to goal and being a dangerous presence in the box.”

“However, we will not give any hints as to how his team would look. They will not play in the same position, but they can start together or they may play together at some point during the game or play separately,” he added.

While Simeone has one of the most unpredictable attacks in Europe, his team have looked much more secure at the back since his arrival in 2013. Since the former Atletico coach took over, Los Rojiblancos have conceded just 71 goals in 104 League games, compared to 123 in 170 games under previous coach Diego Simeone’s reign.

**Real Madrid**

**Real don’t need any more players, says Zidane**

Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane has dismissed reports linking him to the summer signing of Gareth Bale from Tottenham.

The Frenchman has been linked to the forward but Real are not looking to bring in any new players before the transfer window shuts on Monday morning.

“Who wants to add? Maybe in two weeks from now, the market will open again,” Zidane said.

“Right now, we don’t need anything else. We’ve got a lot of quality to choose between.”

**Barcelona**

**La Liga**

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The Los Angeles Dodgers head into another World Series, their first in 13 years, having won the National League West title by taking down a 102-win Arizona Diamondbacks team. It's the culmination of a season that began with a March 5 loss to the Chicago Cubs and ended with a Division Series clincher over the Atlanta Braves.

Tampa Bay Lightning center Steven Stamkos hoists the Stanley Cup after the Lightning defeated the Dallas Stars in game six of the 2020 Stanley Cup Final at Rogers Place in Edmonton, Alberta.

The win erased years of close calls and heartbreaking losses. The Lightning have been immune from external forces. The outside world and the raging coronavirus crisis which has claimed more than 200,000 lives in the United States and more than 400,000 globally hasn’t stopped my journey.”

The Lakers, who will be chasing their 17th NBA championship title in franchise history, won one of the two games that would decide the outcome of the 2020 Stanley Cup Final. The first game ended in a 3-2 victory for Tampa Bay, while the second game saw the Lightning take a 2-0 lead before losing to the Dallas Stars.

In 2019, it was the turn of the Canadian teams. In game one of the Stanley Cup Final, they were eliminated by the Lightning. In game two, Tampa Bay won 3-0.

Lakers head coach Frank Vogel said after the game: “We had a lot of confidence in our group.”

Lakers forward Anthony Davis, who had 25 points and 11 rebounds in the victory, said: “We’re a hungry team. We wanted to come out and get it.”

The Heat have excelled through the playoffs, winning all four series they have played so far. In the Eastern Conference finals, they defeated the Milwaukee Bucks, who had swept them in the regular season.

Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade, who had 29 points and 8 rebounds in the game-winning overtime victory over the Milwaukee Bucks in Game 6 of the Eastern Conference finals, said: “This is the one that we wanted.”

Lakers star LeBron James, who had 21 points and 9 rebounds, said: “We’re just happy to be here.”

The Heat have already secured their 17th NBA championship title, tying the Los Angeles Lakers for the most titles in NBA history. They will now turn their attention to the Finals, where they will face either the Denver Nuggets or the Miami Heat.

The Nuggets have won the last three games of the Western Conference finals and have taken a 3-2 lead in the series. The Heat, however, have won the last two games of the series and are looking to extend their winning streak to five games.

The game against the Los Angeles Angels at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles on Sunday (Gulf Times/SPORT)
**South Africa to host 2023 table tennis Worlds**

Lamar Jackson completed 15 of 28 passes for a mere 97 yards for Baltimore when they blew a 3-1 series lead in the Western Conference semi-finals, the team were consistent qualifiers for the playoffs, Rivers was unable to take them beyond the Western Conference semi-finals.

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Khalid al-Mohannadi, President of the Qatar Table Tennis Association and Deputy President of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF), at the ITTF’s Annual General Meeting in Doha on Monday.

**SPOTLIGHT**

The Ravens reached the 22-17 lead on the first play of the final stanza on a 42-yard field goal by Justin Tucker. Kansas City answered with Mahomes scoring a 3-yard shovel pass to Sherman to tie 27-27 with 5:26 remaining to make it a 14-point margin.

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**CRICKET**

**KKR out to stop Rajasthan winning streak**

In-form Rajasthan Royals (RR) will look to extend their winning run when they square-off against two-time champions Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Wednesday. After Defeating Chandigarh Super Kings (CSK) at Bengaluru, RR are the highest tournament side in 20 overs against Kings XI Punjab (KXIP) in their previous match. They are high on confidence as they take another step towards qualifying for the playoffs, though that is a long long way to go.

The KKR team management would not be too much worried as they are an entertaining side, yet looking at the current performance, the side of RR might be possible, though.

RR opener Sanju Samson and skipper Steve Smith smashed half-centuries as RR continued to score against KKR, however, with the match slipping away from their hands, Rajasthan all-rounder Rahul Tewatia’s 64 breathed life back into their bowler.

On the other hand, KKR have a late bloomer in the middle order to provide a fighting total of 162/4, which was posted against Australia. Their bowlers too, rose to the occasion after winning the toss, taking their side post a fighting total of 162/4, eliminating the SRH bowlers too, rose to the occasion after winning the toss, taking their side post a fighting total of 162/4, eliminating the SRH bowlers too.

Leg-spinner Rashid Khan of Afghanistan was the star performer for SRH as he bagged three wickets for 14 runs in four overs.

The latest revelation came a day after CSA announced that the board of SAFA would not get involved in the administrative problems affecting the sport. The letter asks the minister to get involved in the administrative problems affecting the sport. The letter asks the minister to get involved in the administrative problems affecting the sport.
Gosden calm as Arc history beckons

Heavy rain in the French capital has propelled Enable to favourability ahead of Aidan O’Brien’s English 1000 Guineas and Epsom Oaks winner

The lead-up to the Arc is uncertain

File photo: Dettori riding Enable.

 enable's owner, Saudi Arabia’s Prince Faisal bin Khalid al Saud, said Enable has never finished out of the top three in 18 races and is hoped to win the Arc.

O’Brien’s outsider Serpentine could also challenge. Group One-winning Guineas and Oaks winner

Enable is set to run in Sunday’s Arc Grande of the French capital has propelled Enable to favourite ahead of Aidan O’Brien’s English 1000 Guineas and Epsom Oaks winner.

O’Brien’s outsider Serpentine could also challenge.

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