Tuesday, March 16, 2021
Sha'aban 3, 1442 AH

GULF TIMES
SPORT

With testing done, spotlight on Qatar double-header
Losail International Circuit will host the first two rounds of the MotoGP season – March 28 and April 4

Prime's Racing's indicator-zero is already fighting with the Stethoscope barrier. (MotoGP)

The countdown has begun. After the Official Tests for the 2021 MotoGP season kicked off on Tuesday at the Losail International Circuit in Qatar, the teams are now in the final countdown to the first two rounds of the MotoGP season – March 28 and April 4.

The teams have been busy testing their riders on the latest machinery, with some riders already managing to break the 360km/h barrier. Honda's Marc Marquez, who was the first rider to break the 360km/h barrier last year, returned to the top of the leaderboard with a top speed of 362.284km/h.

Other riders who have impressed include Yamaha's Fabio Quartararo, who set a top speed of 360.5km/h, and KTM's Brad Binder, who recorded a top speed of 359.7km/h.

Although the riders have been pushing hard, safety is still a top priority. The MotoGP teams have been using the latest technology to monitor the riders' performance, with some teams even using virtual reality to simulate race scenarios.

The first round of the MotoGP season will take place at the Losail International Circuit on March 28, followed by the second round on April 4.

Sheikh Mohamed's Tourneol, Al Shaqab's Murjan take first wins

Sheikh Mohamed's Tournesol, and Al Shaqab's Murjan won their first races at the Prix Djouras Tu – Wathba Stallion Cup in Toulouse, France.

Tourneol, who is trained by Philippe Sogorb, won the Prix d'Essai with a time of 1:34.40, while Murjan, trained by Hazzam, won the Prix Djouras Tu with a time of 1:34.27.

In a field that included some of the top horses in Europe, Tourneol and Murjan proved that they are capable of winning at the highest level.

Tourneol, who is bred and owned by Sheikh Mohamed, is a son of the legendary Tousalim, and is trained by Philippe Sogorb.

Murjan, who is owned and bred by Al Shaqab, is a son of the great sire Naboom, and is trained by Hazzam.

The victory for Tourneol was a special one for Sheikh Mohamed, who has been a major player in the Qatar horse racing scene.

With the victory for Murjan, Al Shaqab has now won 16 races in 2021, and is on track to become one of the top stables in the world.

In other news, Sheikh Mohamed's Al Shahania Stud, and trained by Philippe Sogorb, won the Prix des Arabians with Al Shaqab-owned and -bred Dubaai, who is trained by Hazzam.

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Al Gharafa aim to boost top-four chances

By Sports Reporter

Manchester City boss Guardiola

Man City playing almost Total Football under Guardiola

FOCUS

Zidane admits confusion after Hazard injured again

By Sports Reporter

Zinedine Zidane admitted confusion over how to use Eden Hazard after the Belgian was named in the French squad ahead of last week’s Champions League quarter-final against Real Sociedad.

Hazard came off the bench against the Spanish side in the first leg when he pulled a muscle in his left thigh in the 30th minute, but the forward was unable to play in the second leg.

Heung-min is set for a spell on the sidelines

Sonn's injury down to packed schedule

Tottenham Hotspur forward Heung-min Son is set for a spell on the sidelines after injuring his hamstring against Atalanta.

The South Korean will miss Sunday's Premier League match against Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Man City playing almost Total Football under Guardiola

The Catalan manager said he was happy with how his team played in the 2-0 win over Dinamo Zagreb in the Champions League.

“Inside the dressing room or on the job at hand when it was knocked down by Guardiola, I think it’s a compliment to the team,” said Zinchenko, “because the other ones won a lot normally it does not happen. The only thing to think about is this game and then Everton.”

This was immediately followed by Guardiola’s response:

“I have more experience and I know what will happen at the end of the season, but not now. This is a question of matches. The end of the season last normally it does not happen. Right now (this season) there is a season from the previous years because the teams have missed the title. That’s what we want.”

The bookies moved to a first Premier League title win for Everton in the FA Cup quarter-finals on Saturday and they are now 1.60 to win this weekend’s third FA Cup final.

In the bottom half, the team needs to win to stay positive and hope it will be better to come next year. Our team is going to perform in a different condition. Our players have been recruited, the team is much stronger, we hope to beat Al Gharafa,” said Marcelino.

Ramsey named in Wales squad

The midfielder was yesterday named in Wales’ squad for this week’s World Cup qualifier against Georgia and Kosovo.

Meanwhile, our team is going to perform in a different condition. Our players have been recruited, the team is much stronger, we hope to beat Al Gharafa,” said Marcelino.

Man United face Borussia Moenchengladbach in Champions League

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Manchester United won over West Ham

The result leaves United second on 57 points, 14 adrift of Manchester City

Dawson own goal gives Man United win over West Ham City

Result leaves United second on 57 points, 14 adrift of Manchester City

PREMIER LEAGUE

Pretend HTML representation of the document contents.
Thomas rallies to clinch Players Championship

I was fortunate to hit it well enough that a lot of my birdies were low stress

LEADING SCORES

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<td>Tony Finau</td>
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<td>Dustin Johnson</td>
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Golf

Thomas rallies to clinch Players Championship

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Lebanon's Jimmy Roberts celebrates with the trophy after winning during the final round of the Players Championship at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. (Getty Images/AFP)

JIMMY ROBERTS

I was fortunate to hit it well enough that a lot of my birdies were low stress

Rugby

Match-winner Sexton eyes beating England as marker for future

The Irish fly-half, who scored 12 points during the game, said that meeting a 靶 mark for next year's Six Nations would be something of a boost for the Irish.

"I think beating England in the Six Nations would be a great mark for the team to aim for," Sexton said.

"It would be a big step in our development as a team, and it would be a great achievement for the players involved.

"I know we were beaten by the English in last year's Six Nations, but we have been in great form in recent weeks and we have shown that we are capable of beating the best teams in the world."

Cycling

Wiggins calls for fresh probe into Freeman doping affair

British Cycling doctor Richard Freeman, who also worked for Team Sky, has been accused by former rider Bradley Wiggins of helping him escape a drugs ban.

"This is an important day for cycling," Wiggins said.

"Richard Freeman is a dangerous man, and we must do everything in our power to ensure that he is held to account.

"We need a full and fair investigation into his actions, and we should not be afraid to face the facts, no matter how difficult they may be."

Tennis

Schmidt wins Tirreno-Adriatico stage six in five-man breakaway sprint

Marko Schmidt of Slovenia crossed the finish line first on Wednesday to win stage six of the Tirreno-Adriatico stage race, coming from behind to beat four others in a sprint finish.

"It was a hard race, but I'm happy to win," Schmidt said.

"I knew that the breakaway would be tight, and I was determined to make sure that I was there at the end.

"I'm grateful to my team for their support, and I'm looking forward to the next stage of the race."

Soccer

Tottenham Hotspur makes it five English games unbeaten

Tottenham Hotspur continued their fine form in the Premier League with a 2-1 win over West Ham United on Tuesday night.

"This is a big win for us," manager Jose Mourinho said.

"I'm pleased with the way we played, and I'm proud of the players.

"We're starting to gel as a team, and I think we're capable of challenging for the top four.
OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Stephen Curry scored 30 points and the Golden State Warriors used a 134-107 victory over the New Orleans Pelicans on Sunday to tie the NBA’s best record at 32-6.

Curry played with an ankle injury and missed 10 of 15 shots. His 13-of-25 shooting marked his lowest field goal percentage of the season. Nevertheless, the Warriors rallied from a 13-point fourth-quarter deficit to win for the eighth time in nine games and 11th time in 12 games.

Golden State finished off New Orleans in the final minute when Curry drained a 3-pointer with 30.1 seconds left, his sixth of the game, and Pelicans guard Nickeil Alexander-Walker missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

“Obviously you want to see the best night you can have,” Curry said. “But with the physicality of the game and the defense and all the things that we’ve been doing all year, it felt like I just showed up. It could have been better.”

Anthony Edwards added 24 points for the Warriors (32-6), who have won six straight games. Andre Iguodala added 18 points and 12 assists.

On the injury front, forward Juan Toscano-Anderson will be out at least five games with a strained right hamstring.

New Orleans Pelicans guard Kira Lewis Jr. missed the game.
Bravo century steers Windies to Sri Lanka ODI series sweep

Bravo’s innings of 102 off 132 balls highlighted by five fours and four sixes

“...fallen in love with the game...” he said. “I feel, " he said.

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**BOXING**

Fury and Joshua agree fight deal to unify heavyweight belts – ESPN

Reuter

**TELEVISION**

Muguruza happy to end trophy drought

Muguruza was elated to win her first title of the year as she ousted compatriot Dzumhur in a three-setter.

The strongly built Spaniard earlier had said she was ready to replace Rafa Nadal as world No.2, but it was Nadal who triumphed in Marseille.

Muguruza was also physically very deficient having a back injury. With the official pronouncement was confirmed earlier this month, "I am happy that I managed to, for two weeks, get the trophy... and I've always been very happy to hold a champion's trophy and not the finalist's trophy."
Spanish competitor involved in games two and three which the Dutch competitor. However, 3 fi nal (11-8, 11-6, 9-11, 11-9, tabut, no.3 seed, in the knock- stage with no room for error. leave the court with few com- will assert herself on the front foot had been secured. calibration to the grandest of stages thrust her arms in the air in cel- control of the ball while keeping

Mikhailova set the stand- ing victory over Spanish no.16
Sawettabut kept the match
together as most deserving of her 3-1 lead
Dvorak wasn't the only
And now has his sights set firmly

Linda Bergstrom celebrates after punching her Tokyo Olympics ticket in Doha yesterday. “It was up and down from
against Niagol Stoyanov, drop- in back-to-back years in the fi-
in their way.

TOP 10 3x3 teams confirmed for Doha Olympics
T aste will be served up on March 25 and 26 in Doha. Both runners and staff   will attend segments of the relay near
the-$1 million price tag. The

Mikhailovas success-

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It was a truly magnificent showing from the Swede who beat Ukranian Pesotska.

SPORT


VOLLEYBALL QUALIFICATION

Sweden’s Linda books Tokyo spot

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