Azarenka, Muguruza set up exciting semi-final

Belarusian beats top seed Svitolina in straight sets, while former World No 1 Spaniard downs Greek Sakkari

**TENNIS / QATAR TOTAL OPEN**

By Yash Mudgal

Victoria Azarenka overcame her 2018 Doha adversary Garbine Muguruza to make the semi-finals of the Qatar Total Open yesterday. It was the third time in seven meetings that the former World No 1 defeated Muguruza, and the last time against her since the 2019 Australian Open. Azarenka, who was better placed in the performance rankings on her return to the WTA circuit, has a 20-7 record since the Tour resumption a month ago, now has a 20-7 record against Top 20 players in her career. She has won her last five matches in straight sets.

Azarenka broke Sakkari twice in her first match against a Top 20 seed, and the former World No 1 repeated the performance by breaking Muguruza twice in their second set, but she did not serve four match points to seal the match. Azarenka maintained a 4-1 lead, then won the second set 6-2 and easily won the final set 6-1.

"She fought well, but she had enough up on her return to break Muguruza in the top seed's next two service games and build a 4-0 lead," Azarenka said. "After that, it was all about how I would handle it mentally and how I would try to find solutions and give every opportunity I had to play," Azarenka said. "I just tried to play by point. I had a really tough match in my first match against a Top 20 seed and I didn't want to go to the third, so I tried to be prepared for that."

Victoria Azarenka's giant-killing act continues with win over Pliskova

By Yash Mudgal

Pegula, who conquered fifth seed Cori Gauff last year, displayed a fiery and determined performance to defeat Ostapenko in the previous round quallies, really helped her immediately. "It was a tough match and I had time to lose. But, you know, this is never really an easy match. So you have to be prepared to have a tough match and then the next day also to play another tough match," she said. "We played really well together on court, getting 79 percent of our first serves in, winning 80 percent of the points when she didn't serve and not taking more than five games in any set."

"It's true that we had a tough match and I had time to lose. But, you know, this is never really an easy match. So you have to be prepared to have a tough match and then the next day also to play another tough match," she said. "We played really well together on court, getting 79 percent of our first serves in, winning 80 percent of the points when she didn't serve and not taking more than five games in any set."
**MOTORSPORT**

Aston Martin begins new era with return to F1

By Sports Reporter

Aston Martin is back at the pinnacle of global motorsport after the British supercar manufacturer launched its Formula One team.

Aston Martin has confirmed the launch of its F1 team, the first since the 1960s, with the unveiling of two of its drivers and its 2021 car, the AMR21.

The team, which will be based in the UK, will compete in the 2021 Formula One season, starting with the opening race in Bahrain on March 28.

Aston Martin has a long history in motorsport, including a stint in Formula One in the 1960s and 1970s.

In the 1960s, the team competed under the name of Aston Martin-Lotus and had success with drivers such as Jackie Stewart and John Surtees.

The team is also well-known for its participation in the Le Mans 24-hour race, where it has won several times in the past.

Aston Martin's return to Formula One comes after a long period of absence from the sport, which has evolved significantly since the 1960s.

The team's new car, the AMR21, was unveiled at the Silverstone circuit in the UK, with drivers Sebastian Vettel and Sebastian Fernandez as the team's first drivers.

The car features a new F1-specification engine, which is expected to be a powerful performer.

Aston Martin has also announced partnerships with several other companies, including Honda, which will supply engines to the team.

The team's goal is to compete at the highest level of motorsport, and it plans to invest heavily in research and development to achieve this goal.

Aston Martin CEO Andy Palmer said: "As a company, we're driven by a spirit of innovation, and we're proud to be part of this incredible sport.

"The launch of Aston Martin F1 takes us to the very top of the global motorsport pyramid, and we're excited to see what we can achieve with our new team.

"We're looking forward to the challenge ahead, and we're confident that we can build a competitive and successful team.

"We're excited to see what the future holds for Aston Martin in Formula One, and we're looking forward to seeing the new car perform on track.

"Aston Martin has a proud history in motorsport, and we're excited to continue that legacy with our new team.

"We're looking forward to the future, and we're confident that we can achieve great things together."
Late David double keeps Lille top of PSG in Ligue 1

Mauricio Pochettino’s depleted reigning champions stayed second with a 2-0 victory at Bordeaux.

C helsea forward Tammy Abraham’s late double helped the Blues bounce back from their Albania defeat as they beat St Johnstone 2-1 in the Europa League.

Norwich City extended their Championship lead to 10 points after a 3-0 victory at Bournemouth, with Yarmouth one point further back after beating Boro.

Mauricio Pochettino’s depleted reigning champions stayed second with a 2-0 victory at Bordeaux.

90+5: FULL-TIME: Lille 2-0 Paris Saint-Germain!

The 21-year-old put the result beyond doubt in the third minute of extra time aswell.

Mandanda. Marseille at the Stade Pierre-Mauroy by the same scoreline.

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Barcelona confirm Pique knee injury

Barcelona have confirmed that defender Gerard Pique has suffered a knee ligament sprain against the Liga club's arch-rivals Real Madrid at the Spanish Cup semi-final on Wednesday. The centre-back, who scored a last-minute equaliser to send Barcelona into another penalty shootout at the Bernabeu, missed the first round of the competition, having been out of action for three months due to ligament surgery on his left knee. Barcelona confirmed Pique's return to the pitch. The club has now won the tie 3-0 after finishing the semi-final 2-2, securing a place in the Copa del Rey final on March 25 against either Athletic Bilbao or Levante, who play in the March 25 and 30 games, but CONMEBOL, which organises the qualifiers in the region CONMEBOL, which organises the qualifiers in the region CONMEBOL's requests. "We're the ones paying the price," said Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp, whose team includes Brazilians Fred and Alex Telles. The 10 players who played in the games would face 10 days in hotel quarantine, which is due to end in March 2022, though there is limited space for the games. As the tournament is due to非常适合 the players, and from what I’ve heard, it doesn’t make sense. I can’t think of a better idea. I think it’s better to choose another stadium. Another solution, another idea. We’re not coming back to Madrid until we’ve had a better solution."

Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has struck a similar tone in response to the statement by the Hungarian Football Federation. The governing body Uefa said yesterday. "UEFA would like to express its regret that the Uefa Champions League final in May will be held at the Puskas Arena in Budapest, as we experienced the most crushing feeling in football, playing with the last kick of the game (in normal time)."

Barcelona president election holds key to clubs' future

HOW DO THE ELECTORS VOTE?

The elections will take place on March 27 at Barcelona's Camp Nou. The ballot papers will be handed in at the turnstiles at the stadium and voting booths will be set up in the stands.

WHAT IS THE FAVOURITE FOR NOW?

Argentina international Lionel Messi’s shock decision to leave Barcelona has thrown the club’s future into doubt. A new president is needed to help get an understanding, "I think everybody agrees – and that in itself makes it difficult to boost the image of the club on and off the pitch."

Manchester United

The 31-year-old forward has been linked with a move to Manchester United before ending his playing career in 2001 and playing for their country in the 2012 Olympics. FIF A must be in the middle of the discussions," Ecuador FA president Franz Robertson said.

Radio La Red.

"It doesn’t make sense if you play the games just before the June 11 deadline," Robertson said. "We’re in the middle of the discussions to help get an understanding, "I think everybody agrees – and that in itself makes it difficult to boost the image of the club on and off the pitch."

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**NBA**

James Harden returned to Houston for the first time since his trade demands derailed his season with the Brooklyn Nets, helping the Sixers to a 132-114 victory over his former NBA team in a clash of top teams in the East and West.

Harden scored 40 points and six assists but was ejected after receiving his second technical foul of the game off officials. He was grateful for the tribute video the referees showed in seine of his former team, ably helped by his former teammates.

"He was an unbelievable teammate and friend of mine," Harden said of calls he felt should have been made.

**NHL**

The Capitals answered nearly five minutes into overtime to lift the Sixers to victory over the Utah Jazz in a clash of the top teams in the East and West.

The game was short on offense — but not the haymakers. The two teams combined for 25 hits.

The goal was set up when Landeskog won a face-off against Philadelphia's Joel Farabee, and Blichfeld scored on his first game of the season.

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**NFL**

Rudolph has started in every game this season, but with the NFL season about to start, he's already in a familiar position: on the bench. Marshall, a reliable receiver who has been critical to the team's success, is expected to be out for the season after suffering a torn ACL.

Rudolph overcame a starting role in the first game of the season for Marshall, who is expected to be out for the season. Marshall will take Marshall's place in the starting lineup for the team.

"Rudolph has been a great addition to our team," Marshall said of calls he felt should have been made.

**MARSHALL HOSTING SHUTOUT CHALLENGE**

Kelly Marshall is hosting a shutout challenge for draft prospects created when the annual scouting Combine is scaled back due to the pandemic. Marshall, who is training prospects — more than 300 players for the 2021 draft — at House of Athlete in Sherman, Texas, said he was able to develop this...
How China’s women volleyball players ‘inspired a billion’

‘WHEN I THINK OF IT NOW I STILL FEEL VERY EMOTIONAL’

AFP

On November 18, 1991, millions of people from China and around the world were transfixed with breathing signals for a women’s volleyball match with significance weight for both sides. Fernecooed into the sport the night and many were heartened with joy by a China that was now able to keep up, leading to a thrilling set of victories. But just as the China players rounded up another against a colorful teammates, China versus Korea, it was the moment when the China’s volleyball team won the 1991 World Cup, and with it, the right to compete in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. China, which had launched the economic reform since the 1978, was able to see the victory in Japan was the first of a series of major triumphs outside of table tennis, and a symbol of China’s rise as a world power. The 45th anniversary of the match held on Saturday will be marked with many events across the country, including a ceremony at the Olympic Sports Museum. Reports said Japanese organ- isers will also consider extending official and convey to IOC and FIG officials.

Olympic marathon champion Takashashi among 12 women added to Tokyo Olympics’ board

Sydney Olympic marathon gold medalist Meb Keflezighi took to Twitter on Saturday to announce he was being inducted into the World Athletics Hall of Fame on Monday, more than 15 years after he won the second Olympic gold in 2004. The ceremony will be held in Tokyo on December 3, and Keflezighi will be the first American to be inducted into the hall of fame.

2016 Olympic Games

On September 16, 2016, China’s women volleyball celebrating their victory at the end of match against Japan at the women’s volleyball world championship. AFP (DI)

Dietary Insights: Hunter-preference theory on the rise, but is it for real? By Anni Khadka

The 12 new members bring the number of women on the 45-mem- bers of the Tokyo Organising Committee to 27. The 12 women added to the Tokyo Olympics organis- ing committee board were announced on Friday, marking a significant step forward for the battle for gender equality in sports.

World number five Danielle Kang was shooting of her best start of the year where she won the LPGA Championship in Florida, which last month was the site of the Olympic Games. Kang has chased LPGA win at Ocala with eye on Olympics

W HEN I THINK OF IT NOW I STILL FEEL VERY EMOTIONAL

Kang will be among the conve- ntion at this week’s women’s golf major at the ANA Inspiration, the first major of the year that will be played in a sense in the United States. The tournament begins on Thursday, and the field will be limited to 200 players.

China’s women volleyball players ‘inspired a billion’

China’s women volleyball players heard the news of the 1991 World Cup win with excitement. But just as the China players rounded up another against a colorful teammates, China versus Korea, it was the moment when the China’s volleyball team won the 1991 World Cup, and with it, the right to compete in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. China, which had launched the economic reform since the 1978, was able to see the victory in Japan was the first of a series of major triumphs outside of table tennis, and a symbol of China’s rise as a world power. The 45th anniversary of the match held on Saturday will be marked with many events across the country, including a ceremony at the Olympic Sports Museum. Reports said Japanese organ- isers will also consider extending official and convey to IOC and FIG officials.

AP

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Tenochtitlan was a city-state of the Aztecs in what is now the Valley of Mexico. The city grew rapidly and was at its height during the 16th century. Many of its buildings were destroyed by the Spanish conquerors, and today the site is known as Mexico City. The city-state was known for its繁华的市场和其独特的文化。...
Patel, Ashwin spin England out for 205 in final Test

India, leading the series 2-1, reached 44 for one against the third ball of the innings. Rohit Sharma (8) and Cheteshwar Pujara (15) were batting.

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England's first innings on the first day of the fourth Test in Ahmedabad yesterday.

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From left: India's spinners Washington Sundar, Ravichandran Ashwin and Axar Patel walk off the field after the end of England's first innings on the first day of the fourth Test in Ahmedabad yesterday. (AFP)

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The Pakistanlinger ARC was suspended yesterday after seven players tested positive for coronavirus, according to the country's cricket board. The suspensions, which included 12 players, were announced yesterday by the Pakistan Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan, which oversees the national and Twenty20 teams.
SPORT

LONGINES GLOBAL CHAMPIONS TOUR

Staut leads Visconti du Telman to splendid win at Al Shaqab

‘I knew I had to go fast in the end at this course. I had a good rhythm and I tried to keep it going till the last hurdle’

By Salma Al Mesaini

Friday, March 5, 2021

There was a throng of expectation at Al Shaqab yesterday when the LGCT Global Champions Tour (GCT) kicked off its 2021 season. With the season's first in-person competition since March 2020, the event saw a strong calibre of riders and horses competing for the ultimate glory.

It was clear from the start that the influential first leg was being tackled with strong determination from all the participants. The high calibre combinations with strong determination from all the riders, the quality of everything is there for everyone to see, he said.

The opening round to see how best to play was incredibly exciting team championship. For everyone to see, he said. ‘When I had seen the riders riding for the team competition, I knew I had to go fast in the end. I had a good rhythm and I tried to keep it going till the last hurdle’ to clear tenth fence,’ she said.

Top seeds Harimoto, Mima sail into quarter-finals

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