Verstappen wins chaotic Imola classic, Hamilton 2nd

'I surprised myself. We worked really hard to make that better. In these tricky conditions we did a great job.'

Drivers then stood under umbrellas during a passionate rendition of the Italian national anthem as the atmosphere became as if the cockpit had been closed.

Drivers lined Verstappen by a mere 0.4s - at 4.5s - ahead of the Portuguese Grand Prix next time.

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Solskjaer's men are eight points off Man City, Fulham held 11 to draw by Arsenal

**BUNDESLIGA**

Haaland ends mini goal drought as Dortmund see off Bremen

**Futbol Germany**

Diogo Brandão hints at future as Leverkusen drop in the Bundesliga

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**OG**

**LATTE ICARDI GOAL WINS IT FOR PSG**

Victory over St Etienne takes Parisians to within a point of Lille

**Ligue 1**

**Paris Saint-Germain**

Paris Saint-Germain's Mauro Icardi celebrates his goal with Istanbul Krasnan Lyapin right during the Ligue 1 match against St Etienne at the Parc des Princes in Paris, France, yesterday. (AP Photo)

**11-12-2021**

**PARTH FALCONE**

The French forward was on target twice to help the hosts to a 2-0 victory.

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**SPOTLIGHT**

**GERMAN, FRENCH CLUBS 'REFUSE' TO SIGN UP TO THIS, 'UEFA'**

Despite all the hoopla, the Super League was not to be.

**Nagelsmann tipped to join Bayern Munich after Flick bombshell**

Julian Nagelsmann is top favourite to replace Hansi Flick as Bayern Munich manager.

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**SERIE A**

Juve slip to fourth after late loss to Atalanta

**LIGA**

Atletico move four points clear

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**UEFA**

bar to ban clubs who take part in a 'cynical' European Super League
**SPORT**

**FOCUS**

South African cricket plunges back into crisis

S
outh Africa's cricket plunged back into crisis yesterday when the country's sports minister said he had "no option" other than to become directly involved in Cricket South Africa (CSA)'s governance crisis.

This could result in the setting up of a government-recognised CSA and separate South Africa's standing in the International Cricket Council.

Minister Bheki Cele said in a statement that CSA's members' council had asked him to take control of the board's day-to-day running.

The council, consisting of the provinces' representatives, was being formally dissolved for the first time.

The minister also blocked CSA's application for the World Cup in 2023.

Meanwhile, CSA's board has been suspended.

**CRICKET**

BCCI goes into bat for Olympic inclusion

The BCCI, however, has previously had the council and an interim board. The minister has "no option" other than to become directly involved in Cricket South Africa (CSA)'s governance crisis.

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Panthers earn key victory over rivals Lightning

J ayson Tatum scored 44 points and the Boston Celtics withstood late runs by the Tampa Bay Lightning for the ball in the middle of the second quarter before Boston went on to win 119-114 in an NBA matchup between two teams riding winning streaks.

Boston Walker nailed a clitch three-pointer with 24 seconds remaining in overtime to give the Celtics their 100th win since March 8. The Celtics have now scored 32 or more points in 12 of their last 17 games. 

"It was just an incredible shot making from Steph and Jayson," said Warriors coach Steve Kerr. "It felt like a playoff game. Both teams were averaging over 40 points in the Warriors' last four games. It's a guy you want that guy on your team."

The Celtics tried but failed to stop Curry and Thompson, who combined for 72 points and 10 threes to lead the Memphis Grizzlies to a 128-115 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks. Curry scored 47 points and Thompson added 25.

"We were just outgunned by a very good team," said Celtics guard Kemba Walker. "It's tough to hold two guys like that to 40 points. It was a great game by both teams."
Kipchoge shows Olympic form with marathon victory

The invitation-only event, which served as a Tokyo Games qualifier, was originally scheduled for Hamburg but was moved to a closed circuit in the Netherlands.

Kenyan Eliud Kipchoge competes in the “Hamburg Marathon” at the Twente airport in Enschede, the Netherlands, yesterday. Bottom, he celebrates on the podium.

**SPORT**

**TOP LINE**

**SPOTLIGHT**

**BOTTOM LINE**

I was done but something changed — Tokyo allure irresistible to Brownlee

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**SPORT**

Kipchoge shows Olympic form with marathon victory

E liud Kipchoge, the reigning Olympic champion and world record holder, won the Enschede Marathon yesterday in 2 hours 4 minutes and 35 seconds, comfortably outpacing his competitors.

The 32-year-old Kenyan, staying with his training partner until the 10-kilometre mark when Kipchoge accelerated, passed the one-hour mark in 50 minutes and 46 seconds, the half-marathon in 1:01:54 and, after two more minutes back in 2:04:36, passed the finishing line in 2:04:03.

Alongside Kipchoge, two other runners finished in the top three: the German Felix Gottwalt in 2:06:51 and the fast-rising Dutchman Goitom Kifle of Eritrea in 2:08:07.

In the women’s race, German Kristina Schonborn improved her personal best by more than a minute and a-half to finish third in 2:27:05. The invitation-only event, which served as a Tokyo Games qualifier, was originally scheduled for Hamburg but was moved to a closed circuit in the Netherlands.

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**BOTTOMLINE**

**SPORT**

Steven’s betting odds to qualify for Tokyo Olympics

F ormer Australian discus world champion and javelin qualifying for the Games last year, “I don’t have so I would love to be in the top three,” he said.

“Every Games I’ve been to have been as different – from losing in London to Koch’s ironman success, and all the changes, and all the injured bodies,” he said.

“Aussie sprint titles

Steve Johnson has won the world title in 2019 and claimed silver last night.

It was initially feared the season would be delayed due to the coronavirus pandemic, but there was relief when World Triathlon announced the races will resume in July.

“I don’t have so I would love to be in the top three,” he said.

“I’m looking to be in person- al best shape for me, and that’s what I need for Tokyo,” he added.

“This is as good a sign as you’re going to get, and this is going to be a really important race,” he added.

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Ko snaps title drought with dominant Lotte win

**Stewart Cink continues to maintain a five-stroke lead in five birdies and a bogey in his defense of his US PGA Championship.**

**Los Angeles**

AFP

Stewart Cink of the United States lines up a putt on the 7th green during the third round of the RBC Heritage at Harbour Town Golf Links in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. (Getty Images/AFP)

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Cink maintains five-shot lead at RBC Heritage

**Stewart Cink continued his record-setting march to the title and now has a commanding five-shot lead in the final round of the US PGA Championship.**

**Los Angeles**

AFP

Stewart Cink of the United States lines up a putt on the 7th green during the third round of the RBC Heritage at Harbour Town Golf Links in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. (Getty Images/AFP)

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**GOLF**

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Stewart Cink of the United States lines up a putt on the 7th green during the third round of the RBC Heritage at Harbour Town Golf Links in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. (Getty Images/AFP)

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**RUGBY**

**Rebels' season on line as Brumbies take the points**

**A snip ACT Brumbies scrum-half Brice Dulin crossed for his second try of the season ahead of the Brumbies in the Super Cup.**

**Melbourne**

AFP

Rebels' season on line as Brumbies take the points

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**FOCUS**

**Knops saga title drought with dominant Lotte win**

**Lydia Ko ended her three-year LPGA title drought with a powerful victory at the Lotte Championship.**

**Los Angeles**

AFP

LPGA's Ko snaps title drought with dominant win

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**Los Angeles**

AFP

LPGA's Ko snaps title drought with dominant win
Quartararo wins in Portimao with Marquez seventh

French Yamaha rider now has a 15-point lead in the standings after the three races

F

ika Quartararo won his second MotoGP race at the Portuguese Grand Prix at Portimao on Sunday, where he beat over 30 riders with 25 retirements back four hours and 11 minutes ago.

The 22-year-old Italian, who has never won a MotoGP race before his last season, dominated from start to finish, taking the lead after just a few laps and then stretching his advantage throughout the race.

The victory boosted Quartararo’s lead to take the win by 4.809sec.

“I overtook a lot of riders,” he said. “I’m very happy to be second.”

Franco Morbidelli (Yamaha-SRT) and Italian Francesco Bagnaia on a Ducati completed the podium.

Starting from 11th Bagnaia said his aim was to “be more competitive to fight for podium places.”

The win was also so hot, “I want to win with Yamaha again,” Quartararo added.

Sting in the tail of the Italian has a 15-point lead in the overall standings after the three races.

“Really difficult race,” he said. “It was so difficult to maintain the lead for the entire race, but all the riders were doing it.”

Morbidelli said: “I didn’t expect to win, but I’m very happy to be second in front of thousands of fans with a Yamaha.”

“I think it’s the best thing for us,” said Vinales. “It’s the best reward for the team.”

The victory also puts Quartararo on the verge of clinching the title, with just three races remaining.

The Grand Prix of Valencia will be held at the Ricardo Tormo Circuit in the Spanish city of Cheste from November 20-22, followed by the Grand Prix of the Emilia Romagna at the Misano World Circuit on November 27-29.

With the title fight heating up, Yamaha is set to play a crucial role in the final three races.

“I think we have a good chance of winning the title,” said Quartararo. “We have to follow ‘strict security’ measures.”

The Portuguese Grand Prix was held at the Algarve International Circuit in Portimao yesterday (AFP)