Al Nassr edge Al Sadd for last 16 ticket

Qatari champions have 10 points for their second spot and will have to wait for results of tonight's matches

Al Duhail, Al Ahli Saudi square off for AFC Champions League future

AFC Round 3

Some 10 days after Al Ahli Saudi and Al Duhail lost their second group fixture, the two are set to square off on the final day of Group A

Al Duhail and Al Ahli Saudi will have the benefit of knowing what the potential results of the other two fixtures will be after today's clash at the King Abdullah Sports City. Both sides are tied on eight points, with Al Duhail having one match to play against a 5-0 beaten Persepolis and Al Ahli Saudi facing 2-2 draws against Esteghlal FC, which head coach John Lanerou said was their worst performance of the campaign. The French coach blamed fatigue for the defeat but he will lead his team to battle for the final day against Al Ahli Saudi, who have a situarion to win and still have a mathematical chance to qualify. "The situation is not ideal but we have a match to play and we must win it," said Lanerou. "It will be a football battle to the bitter end and the two teams will be looking for a victory. "Al Ahli Saudi performance has changed since the start of the tournament and we expect a strong team. We will be playing against a strong team. "It might be another cup match like we had previously against Persepolis. "I don't think that the defeat against Al Ahli Saudi put pressure on us as we had an excellent start to the competition. "But the only match that we didn't expect to lose was Persepolis. "We will be missing important players like Aubameyang and Al-Hassawi. "But in load of playing against Al Ahli Saudi we are better prepared and Al Duhail will use all its resources to win.

AFC Round 4

Persipharl seal top spot after a six-goal thriller with Al Rayyan

Al Rayyan's Yehid Red (left) in action during the AFC Champions League match against Persipharl yesterday.

AFC Group G

Osman Dost's hat-trick ensured that Persipharl will finish at the top of the group.

The Turkish side top the group after a 6-2 win over Al Rayyan.

AFC Round 3

Emma's deal to win back-to-back trophies

Emma Raducanu will be hoping to win her third tournament in a row when she takes on Sorana Cirstea in the final of the The Championships in Cincinnati.

The British No.1 is looking to win her second US Open title after her victory in New York.

EX-WORLD ROWING CHAMPION MONTEDOLI DIES FROM CANCER AGED 26

Filippo Montedoli, who helped Italy win Olympic gold in 2012, has died aged 26 from cancer.

A statement by the Italian Olympic Committee (CONI) said that Montedoli had been "plagued by osteosarcoma for a year."

He had a successful operation in 2020 but the cancer returned and he died on Monday in Rome, CONI said.

"Italian sport, stunned, mourns the untimely death of Filippo Montedoli," the CONI statement said.

"Montedoli, a world champion in 2012, had won the double sculls title in 2016 and was also a three-time European champion, in double sculls in 2017, and coxless pairs the following year."

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Ex-world rowing champion Montedoli dies from cancer aged 26

The former world rowing champion Filippo Montedoli, who helped Italy win Olympic gold in 2012, has died aged 26 from cancer.

Montedoli, a world champion in 2012, had won the double sculls title in 2016 and was also a three-time European champion, in double sculls in 2017, and coxless pairs the following year.

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"Montedoli, a world champion in 2012, had won the double sculls title in 2016 and was also a three-time European champion, in double sculls in 2017, and coxless pairs the following year."

The rower from Lake Como was found dead in his hotel room on April 30, 2021.

"It's a difficult moment for rowing, for me, for my heart mates, " said Italian rowing federation president Cristina Abbagnato.

"Filippo was a career on the rise, the greatest potential of his generation, of the best rower in the world, of the best rower in the world."

"I believe he was amazing, he was very committed, very happy with a very strong character."

Montedoli was diagnosed with osteosarcoma in his left leg a year ago and had undergone surgery.

"It's a difficult moment for rowing, for me, for my heart mates, " said Italian rowing federation president Cristina Abbagnato.
**FOCUS**

Leicester boss Rodgers rules out Spurs move

I’m very, very happy here and I’m happy to stay. I’ve got a set of players that give me heart and soul every single day. I can’t see myself here in four years’ time. I think the club did everything to keep me but I joined Leicester in 2019, so I had a strong relationship with the board and King Power Stadium. I think over the last couple of years we’ve been able to do it as a club and some amazing records were set in order to keep me,” he said.

“Too many years, I think it’s a couple of years now but you see the mentality around developing that club and a vision to win. We know we are in the right place. Our German champions Bayern Munich will have a couple of years left here, I think, and we have seen that transition and we are moving forward with them.”

**SPOTLIGHT**

UEFA insists Champions League final will take place in Istanbul

The Champions League final will definitely take place in Istanbul on May 29, the UEFA President has said.

UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin said in a broadcast on Thursday that the final will go ahead regardless of the outcome of the remainder of the tournament.

“I know that there have been a lot of questions and doubts about whether Champions League final will take place in Istanbul or not, but it will. There is no doubt about that. Champions League final will definitely take place in Istanbul,” Ceferin said.

The final is scheduled to take place at the Turk Telekom Arena on May 29, but it was unclear if the venue would be able to host the match due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
Barcelona's shock defeat keeps title race wide open

Messi scores to put hosts ahead before Machis and Molina win for Granada

Granada's Darwin Machís (centre) celebrates with teammates after scoring a goal during the La Liga match against Barcelona at Camp Nou yesterday. (AFP)

**FOOTBALL**

**UPDATE**

Leipzig announce Jesse Marsch as Nagelsmann's successor

**FOOTBALL**

**SPOTLIGHT**

Coppa Italia final to have limited number of fans present

**AFRICAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE**

FC Goa's foreign contingent to return home as India's Covid-19 cases surge
Pakistan dominate after Hasan, Shaheen skittle Zimbabwe

OPENER ABID ALI’S FIFTY PROPELS PAKISTAN TO REPLY TO ZIMBABWE’S 176

**FIRST TEST**

Pakistan dominated after Hasan, Shaheen skittle Zimbabwe

Pakistan finished the first day on 103 for 3 in their reply to Zimbabwe’s 176 after a commanding 291 for one.

Taskin Ahmed through the onside for two.

Karunaratne was on 28. He reached his 12th Test century by clipping The only chance given by Karunaratne was dropped who have scored over 5,000 Test runs with his haul opening partnership of 209 with Lahiru Thirimanne was the highest for S. Afr.

Liton Das to give 19-year-old debutant Shoriful Islam his first Test cap.

Milton Shumba, also playing in his first four Test innings, was more circumspect as the pair offered no chances to

Zimbabwe were struggling at 59-4 at the start, having posted four sixes and two centuries. His work striking nine further boundaries.

His batting at 50 for three before being dismissed by the last two wickets to wrap up the innings.

The second over of the day for Pakistan handed a Test debut to off-spinner Nauman Ali, brought into the attack early, bowled Tamim Iqbal, England fast bowler Pat Cummins took Steve Smith off his second ball.

Shaheen Shah Afridi (left) celebrates with teammates after taking a Zimbabwe wicket in Harare yesterday.

India’s fast bowling spearhead, R. Ashwin, has tested positive for coronavirus and withdrawn from the tour. A replacement will be appointed.

The Indian Express said that providing oxygen was the “need of the hour” amid a devastating new coronavirus surge.

Pakistani Shamsur Stanwix celebrates with teammates after taking a Zimbabwe wicket in Harare yesterday. (Debashish PK)

**SECOND TEST**

Karunaratne joins Lanka’s 10-man 5,000 Test-run club

Sri Lanka all-rounder Dhanjaya De Silva took four wickets in the second innings on his way to becoming the second youngest player to 5,000 Test runs.

The South African hit two sixes and an onside for two before being dismissed by the last two wickets to wrap up the innings.

Pakistan handed a Test debut to off-spinner Nauman Ali, brought into the attack early, bowled Tamim Iqbal.

The campaign has collected $2.26 million so far from over 15,000 donors.

Mumford & Sons’s By the Way, I’m Reileen Kawahara also saw his Test century.

The India all-rounder was dismissed by Pakistan seamer Sajid Khan while Zimbabwe included Shabnim, Raza and Riaz for their first Test. They played in Harare from May 7.

The Indian Express

Shaw fireworks see DC thrash KKR

IPL

IPL 2021, Match 44: Delhi Capitals 146-7 (14.1) vs Kolkata Knight Riders 154-4 (20.0)

Delhi Capitals batsman Prithvi Shaw again reached half-century as Delhi Capitals won by seven wickets over Kolkata Knight Riders.

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**NBA**

**Knights top Avalanche for 10th straight win**

William Karlsson of the Vegas Golden Knights celebrated with teammates on the bench after scoring a 4-on-3 power-play goal during a game at the Colorado Avalanche in Las Vegas. (Getty Images/AP)

The Knights defeated the Avalanche for the 10th straight time, with Karlsson scoring a goal and adding an assist as the Knights cruised to a 6-3 victory at T-Mobile Arena. Karlsson’s goal extended his point streak to 15 games, the longest of his career, and he now has 18 goals and 41 points in his last 15 games.

**Suns secure first playoff berth with win over Clippers**

**COACHING POINTS FOR A CHAMPIONSHIP**

NBA Coach of the Year candidate Monty Williams has been leading the Phoenix Suns to success this season. His team is currently the Western Conference leader and is poised to claim the top seed in the playoffs. Williams has been praised for his ability to adapt to different game situations, his emphasis on team defense, and his coaching philosophy that emphasizes player development.

**HARPER EXITS WITH FACIAL INJURY**

Washington Nationals star Bryce Harper suffered an injury on a play that knocked him out of the game. Harper exited the game in the fifth inning after colliding with Colorado Rockies center fielder David Dahl during a-scoring play. Harper was hit by a pitch and fell to the ground, appearing to injure his face.

Harper will undergo further evaluation to determine the severity of the injury and his availability for the remainder of the season.
Barty makes perfect start in Madrid with easy win over Rogers

Adorning a culture of hatred for grief, for the young, for the strange, for the different, for the odd. We’ve had enough of those cowards who hide behind their anonymity to spew out their vitriol. We want a culture of inclusivity, of embracing diversity, of welcoming different voices and perspectives.

Oorges Odell of the Week

Barty enjoys comfortable win over Rogers

World No.1 Ashleigh Barty needed exactly an hour to move safely through to the second round of the Mutua Madrid Open.

She needed to be switched on, play the points very well because she’s the player that can make the match away from you very quickly. It was important for me to start well, across the whole match. It was always going to be a big test for me.

I was really happy with my serve today. I didn’t have to change anything. I just saved one match point, covering the bag, the ball, etc.”

Barty’s 32 unforced errors were nearly twice as many as her opponent’s.

Rogers, 17, is a rising star on the WTA Tour, having reached the quarter-finals at the Australian Open in January.

Barty enjoyed a comfortable win over Rogers in the Madrid Open on Wednesday.

South Korea’s Park sets early pace in bid for Singapore treble

South Korea’s Park Se-Young set the early pace in the fight for the SingaporeWoman’s World Championship title with a 64 (-8) in her opening round on Thursday.

This week I’m really thankful he’s here. I don’t need anything. I just saved one match point, covering the bag, the ball, etc.”

Barty is currently ranked World No.1 and will be aiming for her third title in Singapore.

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Tennis

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GOLF

2017 South Korea Open

Itanasai Kimura

OMED

Golf

2017 South Korea Open

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Ancient Egypt

martial art buffs eye Olympic status

‘It’s something we have to keep. Like any art form, if we don’t practice, we lose it’

By Daniel Winters

E ntry to the Games has been something of a ‘secrets of combat’ quest for Cairo’s tahtib star, Boulad, who for some 15 years has been trying to find a way to bring the sport into the Olympic fold.

Boulad, who was also taught tahtib as a child, said in traditional tahtib, popular in Egypt’s rural north, two men perform a dancelike weapon dance that have joined forces to promote the sport. Boulad said he has given some 15 years of his life to tahtib, which he calls the “national heritage”.

Boulad, who is a strong supporter of modern tahtib, calls the sport further, including in Cairo. The qualifying process, paused for a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, is set to move ahead and speed down the Olympic road.

The “secrets of combat” were taught to Boulad by his teacher in Cairo, who has been training for the Olympics for nearly 20 years. Boulad said his teacher has given him “the secrets of combat”.

It is a sport that is a variation of fencing, where two opponents use bamboo-like rods, in a face-off to win a match. It is a part of ancient Egyptian history.

It is a sporting practice that is not as widely known, but is still trying to gain a foothold in the country. Boulad said he has given some 15 years of his life to the sport.

He compared it to training on sand to run from behind a meshed fence. Boulad said he has given some 15 years of his life to tahtib, which he calls the “national heritage”.

But “we must first let Egypt’s,” he said in traditional tahtib, popular in Egypt’s rural north, two men perform a dancelike weapon dance that have joined forces to promote the sport. Boulad said he has given some 15 years of his life to tahtib, which he calls the “national heritage”.

The qualifying process, paused for a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, is set to move ahead and speed down the Olympic road.
**SPORT**

**Marquez returns to crash site for Spanish MotoGP**

‘Finishing a race is the biggest step in my rehabilitation and feeling like a MotoGP rider’

Marc Marquez attended the official press conference of the Spanish Grand Prix at the Jerez Circuit in Jerez de la Frontera yesterday.

‘We are here to keep improving step by step and do the best job that we can. My recovery is continuing and, the important thing is that we keep improving our consistency.’

Marc Marquez

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**MOTORCYCLING**

**Sheikh Abdullah’s Qaiser goes from strength to strength**

Sheik Abdullah’s Qaiser is on cloud nine after winning Al Shaqab Racing’s Al Shaqab Noman Race at Racecourse in La Teste-de-Buch, France, on Wednesday.

Qaiser, put up a scintillating performance after missing the opener at Ayr Racecourse and won the 1,400m (2F) trip for the first time, but he was also up against a strong field.

In a race in which Gheorghe Ghini (Jerry) and Arnaud Daniasse (Captain) made a mid-stretch in a host that had been tough to beat, the race was run at a moderate speed, but the pace quickened on the turn into the homestretch.

Qaiser made a great move around the middle of the field to take third, but he was unable to overtake the leaders.

The race was won by the dynamic duo of Emanuele Caputti and Marco Pagani of Al Shaqab Racing.

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**HORSE RACING**

**Al Shaqab Racing’s Noman returns with second straight win**

Ghini-Palmer with Jason Hart in the saddle did not have to force his efforts on his way to winning the Al Shaqab Noman Race, which was completed on Tuesday.

Aloha Supreme’s performance was against expectations after finishing fourth in the opener at Ayr Racecourse.

The Bernd O’Meara-trained and Will Dargan-ridden Aloha Supreme was the runner-up, with the Marwan Al Shaqab’s Harouche in third and Max Mara’s-ridden Expresso in fourth.

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**FOCUS**

**6. Korea athletes relieved to get coronavirus shots**

Korea’s athletes of the Olympic committee (OKC) received their first doses of coronavirus vaccines after four months of waiting for the shots.

The OKC’s anti-doping committee on Wednesday said the OKC joined the international Olympic Committee (IOC) and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) in a joint statement that the OKC would continue to work with the IOC on the anti-doping programs.

The OKC’s statement came after the OKC received the results of the IOC’s anti-doping test on Tuesday, which showed that the athletes had been vaccinated.

The statement also said that the OKC would continue to work with the IOC on the anti-doping programs.

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**SPOTTLIGHT**

**Gresini’s wife takes over as MotoGP team boss**

Gresini’s wife takes over as MotoGP team boss

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**APPENDIX**

**GULF TIMES**

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