Zverev stuns Nadal ahead of French Open

‘It’s definitely one of the biggest wins of my career so far, especially on clay against Rafa’

Rafael Nadal lost 6-4, 6-4 to Germany’s Alexander Zverev in the Madrid Open quarter-finals today, capping off an already impressive 2021 season by failing in his bid to claim a 14th Roland Garros title and record-setting 10th major in the French capital. Nadal, who has now fallen early in two quarters in a row but this was his first loss to Zverev, continued: “Of course, playing against one of the best players in the world, under those circumstances, with the speed of the court, it’s very difficult. I find it true that the server was difficult to control at times. Zverev has now beaten Nadal three times in a row and this was his first victory on clay against the five-time Madrid champion. ‘It’s definitely one of the biggest wins of my career so far, especially on clay against Rafa,’ Zverev said.

“It is the toughest thing to do in tennis in these conditions,” Nadal said, “especially here in the altitude, it’s very difficult, and it’s very important to return, especially here in the altitude, it is very difficult and very difficult to break. ‘To start with a break down is difficult, very difficult, but the way to stay focused, kept a good fighting spirit,’ Zverev said. ‘Very happy to win and take the best from around the second grand slam.'
Emery gets revenge on Arsenal as Villarreal reach Europa final

Defeat means the Gunners will miss out on Champions League football for a fifth consecutive season

FOOTBALL

MATCH REPORT

Al Sailiya crowned QFA Cup champions

1 Al Sailiya crowned QFA Cup champions after beating Al Markhiya in final

IN THIS SECTION

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FOCUS

Artafa says he is right man for Arsenal

FOOTBALL

Qatar Airways U-23 League season concludes

In this article, we discuss the conclusion of the Qatar Airways U-23 League season. The season came to an end on July 15th, with Al Gharafa emerging as the champions. The final match between Al Gharafa and Al Rayyan was a thrilling affair, with Al Gharafa winning 3-2 to claim the title. The season has been a rollercoaster, with many highlights and low points. However, the final match was undoubtedly the most exciting of all.

The final match between Al Gharafa and Al Rayyan was a tense and thrilling affair. Both teams entered the match with a chance of winning the title, and the atmosphere in the stadium was electric. The first half was a back-and-forth affair, with both teams creating chances. However, it was Al Gharafa who struck first, with Fahad Al Habsi netting a goal in the 35th minute.

Al Rayyan responded in the second half, with Ali Al Habsi equalizing in the 60th minute. The teams continued to push for the win, with both teams creating chances. However, it was Al Gharafa who ultimately emerged victorious, with Fahad Al Habsi scoring a late winner to secure the title.

The victory was a well-deserved one for Al Gharafa, who had an impressive season. The team played a high-pressing style of football, and their efforts were rewarded with the title. The victory also capped off a successful season for their coach, who was pleased with the performance of his players.

The Qatar Airways U-23 League season was another successful one, with many highlights and low points. However, the final match between Al Gharafa and Al Rayyan was undoubtedly the most exciting of all. The season has been a rollercoaster, with many highlights and low points. However, the final match was undoubtedly the most exciting of all.

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**FOOTBALL**

**SPOTLIGHT**

Super League rebels face sanctions after defectors sign deal with UEFA

The three teams that so far rejected the breakaway European Super League yesterday signed deals with the European Football Association (UEFA).

The six English clubs — Manchester United, Manchester City, Chelsea, Arsenal, Tottenham Hotspur and Liverpool — had signed a Club Commitment Declaration that included a series of “magnitudes” steps.

The six English clubs — Manchester United, Liverpool, Manchester City, Tottenham Hotspur and Arsenal along with AC Milan, Inter Milan and Juventus of Italy were the only clubs that had signed a Club Commitment Declaration, UEFA said in a statement.

“The clubs rejected their involvement and have taken action to demonstrate their commitment to the continued existence of the Champions League — the most important title, he said. “The clubs were not freed from titles but at PSG he could, both lucky to be at clubs with vast financial resources.”

Both his and Tuchel’s teams have won three titles in as many years. While both he and Tuchel have been praised for their consistency and tactical acumen.

The game will be analysed over and over again for years to come. The Champions League final that will set, but Guardiola said no such thing. His claim that he’d have the Premier League in hand is dismissed as a false story.

“Right now, there is no one thinking about the final as we don’t think too far ahead,” Thomas Tuchel said on Thursday.

“Today I am with the team that can do great things,” Lukaku said.

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**PREMIER LEAGUE**

Champions League can wait. Guardiola’s eyes fixed on English title

City need three points to be sure of securing their third title in four years.

**FOOTBALL**

**UK’ open to hosting Champions League final due to Turkey travel ban**

The English Football Association were in talks with European football governing body UEFA already on the issue, said one source within the English game.

**FOOTBALL**

**INTER enter’ new cycle, says Lukaku**

Inter Milan, who ended their 11-year wait for the Italian league title last season, can start “the new cycle” with star striker Romelu Lukaku in an interview published in Corriere della Sera.

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Abid and Azhar tons put Pakistan in strong position

Visitors had reached 264 for eight at the end of first day against Zimbabwe

Pakistan's Abid Ali (left) and Azhar Ali score centuries on the first day of the second Test against Zimbabwe in Harare yesterday. (PCB)

Abid and Azhar's centuries put Pakistan in strong position

The 44-year-old, undefeated captain and batsman, who drove Muzarabani to point for four, said his team's dominance there was "not known how many rounds shrouded in mystery. As yet it is just being at home, with your clothes, " he smiled.

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Clippers dominate struggling Lakers

Los Angeles, United States

Clippers dominate

'I only came here to win a championship and if we don’t do that we go back to zero,' said guard Rajon Rondo, who was

The Los Angeles Clippers sweep the Los Angeles Lakers in the Western Conference first round, winning the series 4-2.

Rondo added, ‘I only came here to win a championship and if we don’t do that we go back to zero.’

The Clippers, led by forward Paul George, dominated the Lakers throughout the series, outscoring them in every game.

Paul George scored a team-high 24 points, while guard Rajon Rondo contributed 11 assists to help lead the Clippers to victory.

The series was marked by high intensity and physical play, with the Lakers struggling to keep up with the Clippers’ speed and skill.

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Phil Mickelson of the United States plays his shot from the eighth tee during the first round of the Wells Fargo Championship in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The five-time major winner had eight birdies and a bogey over the par-71 layout in Cape Town only, reducing travel concerns and a subsequent match with New Zealand and two Pacific Island teams may be reconsidered for the Tri-Nations.

Wallabies to face France in biosecure July series

AUSTRALIA SEE AUG 7 START

LEADING FIRST-ROUND SCORES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lee Westwood (ENG)</td>
<td>66</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunter Mahan (USA)</td>
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<td>Satoshi Kodaira (JPN)</td>
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Tavatanakit takes lead in Thailand

CATHERINE THIBAULT


AUSTRALIA VS FRANCE (RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP)

Australia have not won a test match in France since 1999, when they scored a 33-6 victory.

Organisers confirmed that matches would be played without spectators, with New Zealand and Europe playing at different venues.

Tavatanakit said after the round.

Australia and France will meet in the Tri-Nations this year, with the Wallabies aiming to maintain their momentum after the success in 2020.

Australian flanker David Dennis said.

“We get to look at what the landscape is and certainly what not to do both of us. There’s a lot of value in the two teams getting...
Sever time world cham-
non Lewis Hamilton was
expected to enjoy pole
position for Saturday's
Spanish Grand Prix after
taking the Mercedes
driver prepared for a
weekend that could bring
him a record-stretching
10th F1 pole positions
and boost his overall
haul.

The eight-time world
pens of clear air, Red Bull's
Max Verstappen and Brawn
were the Central
European runners-up,
but he said one-two
with Hamilton was the
affair.

Verstappen was sec-
tioned in the morning
together at 1.31.950, 0.337
faster than V er-

It's been a good start to the
weekend and then I think we know there
are steps to take and how we can get there.

### COACHING

The opening session was halt-

The Dutchman has fallen foul
of Red Bull team boss Christian
Horner, who marginally}

Verstappen had slowed happy

tation to try and save the leg. I don't

The car is very

lust and save it, but I could see
the chaff.

The opening session was hal-

the Prince of Monaco.

Schumacher was taking on the

Mick Schumacher is
clearly getting more

I'm not going to throw in the

Froome was not where

the electric era, no number

is to come back. My dream is still

a welcome befitting a coura-

several years ago..." Hamilton told

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Japan extends state of emergency; Games on, says PM

We are putting all our efforts into stemming the spread of infections

---

Japan extended a state of emergency in Tokyo and three other prefectures in Japan for another month on May 8, 2021, as the city on Tuesday reported 1,005 new cases yesterday while the infection counter was still rising, the government said.

Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga reiterated that it is still possible to host Tokyo Olympics this summer.

Responding to a question in a news conference about continued public concerns about continued measures that would protect the Japanese online petition calling to move the Olympics to 2021, Suga reitered that Japan can host the Games.

His stance that Japan can host the Games is in stark contrast to the French whose President Emmanuel Macron has made a decision on Olympic participation.

The government yesterday extended to May 11 will leave a margin of less than two months before the July 23 start of the Games, which were postponed for a year because of the pandemic.

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Reports:

**AFP**

Australian Olympians pose in front of the Sydney Opera House at the unveiling of the team uniforms for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

**AN (Freeman)**

Bob Hope and British author George Orwell.

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**SPOTLIGHT FOCUS**

Saturday, May 8, 2021

**SPORT**

World’s oldest paddler pulls out of Olympic torch relay

Kane Tanaka from Fukuoka in southern Japan had been planning to use a wheelchair to carry the Olympic flame on May 15 in southern Japan, the same year as American entertainer Bob Hope and British author George Orwell.

Austrian basketball star threatens Olympic boycott over ‘whitewashed’ photo shoots

India paddler Sathiyan plots medal surprise

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**Japan Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games online against Mongolia’s Changaatan Baatarsaikhan during their 57kg bout in an Olympics qualifying wrestling tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria, yesterday.

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**SPORT**

India paddler Sathiyan plots medal surprise