

Dovizioso to retire from MotoGP after home race in San Marino

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Al Markhiya, Al Wakrah steal show as QNB Stars League Week 1 sees gripping start

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

THE curtains came down on the competitions of Week 1 of the 2022-2023 season QNB Stars League, held over three days - August 1, 2, and 3, 2022, having witnessed exciting competition between teams to win and collect the three points.

The following were the results: Al Markhiya bt Al Sadd 4-3; Al Ahli bt Umm Salal 1-0; Al Arabi bt Qatar SC 2-0; Al Gharafa bt Al Saliya 2-1; Al Wakrah bt Al Duhail 4-2; Al Shamal bt Al Rayyan 1-0.

The first round witnessed six wins and no draws, with 20 goals being scored.

The biggest upsets were Al Wakrah's 4-2 victory over Al Duhail and Al Markhiya's 4-3 victory over Al Sadd.

Al Ahli, Al Arabi and Al Shamal also registered wins and the first round witnessed one player being shown the red card - Qatar SC striker Sebastian Soria.

Al Sadd, the defending champions, suffered their first loss in the QNB Stars League



Jacinto Dala of Al Wakrah scores as Al Duhail players look on during their match at the Education City Stadium on Tuesday. Al Wakrah won 4-2. Dala along with Al Markhiya's Ayman Hussein is the leading scorer with two goals. Second week action starts Tuesday.

in two seasons and after 47 consecutive matches. This reversal came against Al Markhiya (3-4) in the opening QNB Stars League.

Al Ahli came up with a

strong show and succeeded in overcoming Umm Salal 1-0.

The fourth-placed team last season, Al Arabi, continued their distinguished performance by surpassing Qatar SC

with two goals to nil.

Al Gharafa scored an exciting 2-1 win over Al Saliya while Al Wakrah beat last season's runners-up Al Duhail 4-2 in a thrilling match,

before the opening week of the league concluded with a creditable win for Al Shamal over Al Rayyan.

In the very first match of the new season, Al Markhiya,

proved their credentials straight up winning by four goals against three against Al Sadd.

The match witnessed a lot of excitement and fierce competition before Al Markhiya prevailed over their fancied rivals to claim their first three points.

The Umm Salal and Al Ahli clash was closely fought till the very last before Yazan Al Naimat struck the winning goal for Al Ahli to collect the three important points.

The league's third match saw Al Arabi maintain their stature, having finished in the top four last season, as they beat a challenging Qatar SC 2-0. The match saw Qatar SC's Soria being red-carded.

Al Gharafa prevailed 2-1 over Al Saliya in a match that witnessed exciting moments, especially with Al Gharafa making good of their chances. Al Saliya performed well in the second half but could not succeed in exploiting the opportunities they got in front of the goal.

The top of the round matches ended with Al Wakrah's 4-2 triumph over Al Duhail. The match saw fortunes fluctuate

with Al Duhail holding an upper hand at the start before Al Wakrah rallied strongly to turn the tide in their favour thanks to the brilliance of their Angolan striker Jacinto Dala, who scored a brace.

The opening week was rounded-off by Al Shamal edging Al Rayyan 1-0 with the match-winning goal coming in the final minutes from substitute Mohamed El Sayed. The win showed that the Al Shamal team is ready to fire.

In the scorers' race, the duo of Al Markhiya striker Ayman Hussein and Al Wakrah's Jacinto Dala emerged on top with two goals apiece against Al Sadd and Al Duhail respectively.

The QNB Stars League 2022-23 season's second week action will continue on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9, 10 and 11 August, 2022 as follows: Tuesday, 9th August 2022: Umm Salal vs Al Sadd, Qatar SC vs Al Markhiya; Wednesday, 10 August 2022: Al Gharafa vs Al Wakrah, Al Saliya vs Al Shamal; Thursday 11 August 2022: Al Ahli vs Al Duhail; Al Arabi vs Al Rayyan.

ENGLAND PREMIER LEAGUE STARTS TODAY

'Switch to five substitutes has saved football'

Liverpool's Asst Manager Pep Lijnders thanks new rule

PA MEDIA/DPA
LONDON

LIVERPOOL assistant manager Pep Lijnders believes the introduction of five substitutes in the Premier League this season has "saved football".

The number of substitutions was temporarily increased from three when football resumed amid the coronavirus pandemic in the summer of 2020.

The International Football Association Board agreed to permanently keep that rule in place last October but the Premier League reverted back to three changes per game for the past two seasons.

However, top-flight clubs agreed earlier this year to allow five substitutes from the start of the 2022-23 campaign - news welcomed by Liverpool assistant Lijnders.

"The big thing this season and I think the most decisive aspect of this season will be how teams use the five subs because that will change massively the Premier League," he told the PA news agency.

"We're really happy with that because it means that we can play intense from minute one until minute 95 - (then it is) how to use the squad, how to deal that we play every 3 days.

"I think the rule saved foot-



Manchester City's Norwegian striker Erling Haaland (centre) along with teammates during a training session on Thursday. Reigning Premier League champions Manchester City will open their new season campaign against West Ham on Sunday.

ball, in my opinion, because if you want to play every three days, this was one of the musts to have. I'm really happy that the Premier League saw that, that the clubs saw it but I think as well it is a weapon."

Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp and Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola were

both critics of not adopting the changes for the last domestic league campaign when it was allowed in European competitions as well as for England's domestic cup fixtures.

The changes come into place for a season unlike any other, with the World Cup slotted midway through the

campaign in Qatar.

It is a challenging dynamic that Lijnders wrote about in his new book 'Intensity' - the inside story of how Liverpool's 2021-22 campaign unfolded.

"In the book, it will explain really well how busy we were three quarters of a year ago, how we were already planning

this season in terms of where do we go, what do we want," the Reds assistant said.

"We decided to go to Dubai. It's close (to Qatar) so players can come quickly back, so they can prepare quick with the team again, and it gives us real time to prepare for the second sprint of the season."

Quick read

Chelsea complete Carney Chukwuemeka signing from Aston Villa

LONDON: Chelsea have confirmed the signing of Carney Chukwuemeka from Premier League rivals Aston Villa for an undisclosed fee.

The 18-year-old midfielder, who was part of the England side that won the Under-19 European Championship this summer, moves to Stamford Bridge having decided against signing an

extension to his Villa contract, which was due to expire next summer.

Villa boss Steven Gerrard left the midfielder out of the club's pre-season tour of Australia and he had been training with the under-23s. Gerrard was understood to have put a £20 million (\$24.3 million) price tag on the player. Chukwuemeka, who turns 19

in October, made his first-team debut in May 2021 and last season made 14 appearances but just two of them were Premier League starts.

He said of his switch to Stamford Bridge: "It's been quite hectic but I couldn't get Chelsea out of my head the last few days so I'm just happy and relieved that it's all done."

"I'm so excited and just can't wait to get on the pitch, meet all the players and try to win games and trophies with Chelsea." Chairman Todd Boehly added on the club's official website: "Carney is one of the most exciting young players in Europe so we are really looking forward to seeing him in action at Stamford Bridge. "We are delighted to be able to

bring him to Chelsea and add such a talented young individual to our squad for the new season and beyond." A brief Villa statement read: "Aston Villa can confirm Carney Chukwuemeka has completed his transfer to Chelsea. "Everyone at the club would like to wish Carney all the very best for the future." (PA MEDIA/DPA)



Gabriel Jesus.

Arteta backs new signing Jesus to be a success at Arsenal

Striker Jesus will make his Premier League debut for the Gunners at Crystal Palace on Friday night after moving from champ Manchester City

PA MEDIA/DPA
LONDON

MANAGER Mikel Arteta has backed the contagious mentality of Gabriel Jesus to help Arsenal have a successful season.

Striker Jesus will make his Premier League debut for the Gunners at Crystal Palace on Friday night after moving from champions Manchester City.

The Brazilian has already scored seven goals in pre-season to whet the appetite of Gunners fans, and their manager.

"When you bring top players from top clubs and they've been extremely successful over the years, there is expectation," said Arteta.

"The role that Gabi has here is going to be very different to the role that Gabi had in his previous club.

"That needs some adaptation and time and we are all surprised with how quickly he's done it, but we have to share that responsibility.

"He's a tremendous talent with a mentality that is so contagious and he's going to give us a lot, but it's a team at the end of the day. "We are all enthusiastic.

We had the pre-season we wanted, it was well organised, we had good results, good preparation and good performances.

"But now the ball starts to roll tomorrow evening in a completely different context and against a Premier League team and we know what to expect there.

"It's true we have a high level of energy and ambition to have a successful season and we have to show that on the pitch tomorrow night."

The enthusiasm surrounding the Gunners is a far cry from the start of last season, where a Friday night defeat elsewhere in the capital, at newly-promoted Brentford, was the start of three straight losses.

But Arteta added: "It is different. Everything that happened before that game was pretty strange and unique. The preparation, the pre-season that we had, different contexts.

"We are really excited, looking forward to the new season and will try to start in the best way and this is how we do our preparation." Oleksandr Zinchenko and Marquinhos could also make their Arsenal debuts at Selhurst Park.

But fellow summer signing Fabio Vieira did not play at all in pre-season and will be lacking match fitness.

Midfielder Emile Smith Rowe also looks set to miss out with a groin problem.

LIGUE 1

PSG look for Mbappe, Messi and Neymar to click

STATS PERFORM/DPA
BERLIN

CHRISTOPHE Galtier has told Paris Saint-Germain's superstars that a team that defends together can win big together.

New head coach Galtier believes squad spirit is contagious, and that such togetherness holds the key to getting the best out of Kylian Mbappe, Neymar and Lionel Messi this season.

The man now at the helm at Parc des Princes watched the PSG trio from afar last term, while bossing Nice. They spluttered at times as a combination when they were widely expected to take French and European football by storm.

Rarely have such a starry trio belonged to the same club at the same time, and they will be expected to better last season's performance as PSG again go after their holy grail: Champions League glory.

In Ligue 1 last season, Mbappe rattled in 28 goals in 35 games, but Neymar again missed chunks of the campaign and finished with 13 goals in 22 outings in the competition, while former Barcelona captain Messi hit the back of the net just six times in 26 league appearances.

Mbappe was absent through suspension for the 4-0 Trophee des Champions



Paris Saint-Germain's (PSG) French head coach Christophe Galtier looks on during a press conference at the Camp des Loges, the club's training ground in Saint-Germain-en-Laye, on the outskirts of Paris on Thursday. (AFP)

thrashing of Nantes last weekend. Messi opened the scoring, Neymar added a double, and Sergio Ramos completed the rout as Galtier, who took over from the sacked Mauricio Pochettino in July, picked up early silverware.

When the Parisians head to Clermont for their league opener on Saturday, Mbappe will be available once more, and that means in all likelihood the front

three will be reunited.

"It's a pleasure to have Kylian Mbappe back for the first league game," said Galtier. "He's been involved in our pre-season."

Galtier was asked directly about what the key would be to getting the best out of the front three, but the coach took a tangential path to offering his view, and in doing so indicated he perhaps expects extra

effort from Mbappe, Messi and Neymar when it comes to contributing all over the pitch.

"In terms of our defensive set-up we have a collective desire and responsibility. Also, as individuals. There can be periods in matches where it is very tight and the team hasn't yet got on top of the opposition in terms of the scoreline or finding spaces," Galtier said.

"We want to be very fo-



Paris Saint-Germain's Brazilian forward Neymar (C) attends a training session at the Camp des Loges, Paris Saint-Germain football club's training ground in Saint-Germain-en-Laye, on the outskirts of Paris on Thursday. (AFP)

cus on not letting the opposition affect our style of play. We have a priority as a team and as individuals.

"When you have teammates making a big effort, of course, that is contagious, and it means the players around them want to make the same effort. So we need to make sure this is what happens."

Galtier said he and PSG would benefit from the expe-

rience of former Real Madrid captain Ramos, who spent the majority of his first season with the club on the sidelines due to injury woes.

"It is always good to have players like him, and they can bring their experience," said Galtier. "Professionalism. That is what they bring to their team-mates, and to me they also have experiences that I haven't had, so I can learn

from that, and they might also have answers to questions that I am asking myself."

This will be PSG's 50th season in Ligue 1, and it brings them an opportunity to land an 11th league title, which would take them ahead of Saint-Etienne to become the outright most successful team in the competition's history. Anything less would be considered a failure.

A documentary on Spain's South Africa 2010 triumph is now available on FIFA+

Scoring the winner and paying tribute to Dani was magical: Andreas Iniesta

FIFA

FORGET Seve Ballesteros putting his tee shot into a car park, somehow recovering to make a birdie and becoming the first man from continental Europe in 72 years to win a golfing major at Royal Lytham & St Annes G in 1979. Forget Miguel Indurain cycling through 500,000 rapturous spectators en route to becoming the only person to win five successive Tour de France races at the Champs-Élysées in 1995.

Forget Fernando Alonso becoming the youngest world champion in Formula One history at Interlagos in 2005. Forget the Pau Gasol-propelled FIBA World Championship conquest in Saitama in 2006. Forget Fernando Torres dinking Spain into delirium in the UEFA EURO 2008 final. Forget Rafa Nadal's earth-shaking victory over Roger Federer in the mother of Wimbledon finals seven days later.

Spain's sporting zenith undoubtedly came at Soccer City in 2010. Its superhero's cape wasn't an oversized collar under a v-neck jumper, a synthetic-fabrics yellow jersey, striking blue-and-yellow overalls, a wicking-fabric vest, a red No9 jersey or an all-white, headband-decorated ensemble. It was a curious dark-blue shirt. Andres Iniesta later admitted he came very close to watching that FIFA World Cup in beach shorts and flip-flops on his Catalonian couch.

He would later describe the year leading up to the FIFA World Cup™ as "hell – both mentally and physically". "I saw him suffering in the Barça dressing room, in the national team, often racking his brains," said Xavi in The Secrets of La Roja, a fascinating documentary on Spain's 2010 campaign you can watch for free on FIFA+.

Off the pitch, the sudden death of his close friend Dani Jarque, from a heart attack at the age of 26, had devastated Iniesta. "We had a lovely friendship," said the Fuentebilla native. "I realised that the mind is delicate and that sometimes it's not easy to fight



Spain's Andreas Iniesta with the FIFA World Cup trophy, won by Spain in 2010. (Pic courtesy: Goal.com)

against it. There are times when so many things build up."

On grass, Iniesta had been plagued by injuries, starting only 20 of Barcelona's 59 games in 2009/10. Alarmingly, he suffered a total rupture of the right femoral biceps muscle in mid-April.

"The injury is in a very, very, very, very dangerous spot," warned his coach Pep Guardiola at the time. "I don't know whether he'll be able to go [to the World Cup]."

Iniesta didn't play again before Vicente Del Bosque named his 23-man squad for the tournament. The mercurial playmaker admits to feeling petrified at the genuine possibility of being left at home.

The moment of truth came on 20 May. "Midfielders," Del Bosque announced to a bus-

ling press conference. "Iniesta..." "The coach believed in me," said Iniesta, the gratitude palpable in his introverted tone.

That was not, however, the end of Iniesta's injury nightmare. If Spain being stunned 1-0 by Switzerland in their curtain-raiser wasn't devastating enough, the No6 hitting the Moses Mabhida Stadium turf in agony, after a ferocious Stephan Lichtsteiner challenge, heightened the blow.

"I could have stayed there in the hopelessness of the moment," recalled Iniesta. "That's the truth. I didn't want to do any tests in the following days because something surely would have shown up and they would have ruled me out. It was like I didn't want to face reality."

A premature return to

Barcelona almost became a reality. Iniesta missed the 2-0 win over Honduras and had all but accepted his tournament was over until Spain's physical therapist scored a fundamental goal in their quest for global glory.

"At one point I was working on that spot and while I did, it loosened up," explained Raul Martinez. Iniesta added: "He pressed the button and it was immediate. I felt the muscle had loosened. I moved and ran freely, which I had not done in a long time. Thanks to him I was back playing like I wanted."

Requiring victory over a formidable Chile side in their final Group H game to make sure of a place in the knockout phase, Iniesta's winner secured it for La Roja. David Villa, Iker Casillas

and Carles Puyol emerged as the heroes of Spain advancing from the Round of 16, quarter-finals and last four respectively. On 11 July 2010, Iniesta walked out to start the biggest game of his life: a World Cup final against the Netherlands.

"In that moment, all sorts of things go through your head," he said. "Everything you've been through on a personal level. The really tough moments."

"And right before going out to warm up, I remembered – or it kind of came to me – I told [a member of the Spain delegation] to make me an undershirt with the message for Dani. I wanted to play tribute to him at some point."

Iniesta couldn't have dreamed of paying homage to his late friend in such perfect fashion. After 116 goalless minutes, the left-lying playmaker uncharacteristically appeared in a right-sided position a striker would usually take up. "You wondered, 'What is he doing?'" said Xavi laughing.

"I knew exactly how I had to shoot and, at the same time, I knew I had to be really quick," said Iniesta. "Fate made that ball go where it had to."

That was into the bottom corner of a Soccer City net to crown Spain world champions for the first time. The habitually low-key Iniesta ripped off his shirt, showcasing a t-shirt with the message, "Dani Jarque siempre com nosotros" (Dani Jarque always with us), and screamed hysterically.

"That moment was magical," said Iniesta, wiping away a tear. "To win the World Cup and have the chance to score the winning goal, there's no way to describe it. To finish it the way I did was a dream. It was history."

The documentary ends with Iniesta and Iker Casillas sitting down together to recall their South Africa 2010 experiences, with the Real Madrid legend expressing a giant 'gracias' to his former Barcelona rival – not for winning Spain football's most prestigious prize, but for making sure brag machine David Villa wasn't the triumph's hero!



Renato Sanches with the PSG shirt after his signing.

Coach hails 'explosive' Sanches as PSG sign up Lille star

STATS PERFORM/DPA
BERLIN

PARIS Saint-Germain are poised to complete the signing of Renato Sanches, with coach Christophe Galtier hailing the "explosive qualities" of the Lille midfielder.

Speaking in a news conference on Thursday, Galtier said Sanches would give him fresh options in midfield, believing the 24-year-old Portugal international will bring added dynamism.

Italian champions Milan were also keen on Sanches, but a deal with PSG appears to be all but over the line.

It will mean the former Benfica, Bayern Munich and Swansea City player comes in as PSG look set to offload Georginio Wijnaldum to Roma and Idrissa Gueye to Everton.

Head coach Galtier said: "Renato Sanches is a player with qualities that others do not have, particularly if I compare him with Marco Verratti and Vitinha."

"He is an explosive player who makes a difference on the pitch with his runs."

Galtier said PSG were pleased to have observed the availability of Sanches and "taken that opportunity" to go in for him.

The PSG boss worked with Sanches at Lille previously, collaborating in the club's 2020-21 title-winning season.

"He is arriving quite late on. I don't think he has played much in his preparation games because he was expecting to move clubs, so he will be a bit behind the others," Galtier said.

"He is a completely different player in terms of his explosive qualities and his ability to break the lines in the midfield, and he can also make a big impact defensively."

Reigning French champions PSG travel to face Clermont in their Ligue 1 opener on Saturday, as they begin their pursuit of what would be a record 11th Ligue 1 title.

Bournemouth's Solanke signs contract extension

BOURNEMOUTH striker Dominic Solanke has signed a contract extension until the summer of 2026. The 24-year-old hit 29 goals last season to help the Cherries win promotion to the Premier League as Championship runners-up. Solanke, who was capped by England in 2017, joined the south coast club from Liverpool for a reported £19 million in January 2019, having begun his career with Chelsea. Bournemouth chief executive Neill Blake told the club website: "Dom was pivotal to our success last year and to secure his future with us is a significant signal of intent from the club." (DPA)



Qatar's Youssef Muhammad Al Mutawa at the Chess Olympiad in Mahabalipuram, near Chennai, on Thursday.

Qatar beat Djibouti at Chess Olympiad

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

QATAR'S national team on Thursday posted their third victory at the Chess Olympiad in Chennai.

Qatar beat Djibouti, ranked No. 177 in the world, with a score of 0-4.

Al Annabi were represented by Husain Aziz, Ghanem Al Sulaiti, Youssef Mohamed Al Mutawa and Rayan Irfan.

Ali Gomaa, Abdullah Husain, Mohamed Dima and Mohamed Joumana represented Djibouti in the sixth-round clash in Indian city of Chennai.

Earlier in the tournament, Qatar beat Papua New Guinea and Bolivia while losing against Denmark, Finland and Iraq.

Qatar will now play against

the 87th-ranked South Korean team today in the seventh round.

"Qatar's goal will be to achieve their fourth victory," Al Mutawa said.

"The team has been able to achieve great results during this edition of the Chess Olympiad especially as we faced top teams," Al Mutawa said.

Around 185 teams representing 180 countries are taking part in the tournament.

"Qatar players will continue to look for better performances in the future events after we are done with this high profile tournament.

"Good results are key to player development. We also want our players to improve their rankings. We have come here to learn and improve and I am happy to say we are doing exactly that," Al Mutawa said.



Andrea Dovizioso.

Dovizioso to retire from MotoGP after home race in San Marino

STATS PERFORM/DPA
BERLIN

ANDREA Dovizioso has announced that he will end his illustrious MotoGP career after the San Marino Grand Prix next month.

Dovizioso has won 24 races and has finished the season as a runner-up on three occasions in the premier class.

The Italian will not see the MotoGP season out with Yamaha, having won only 10

points from 11 rounds this year.

Dovizioso is 22nd in the championship standings after signing a full factory contract with the Iwata outfit for 2022 and has decided to quit after his home race at the Misano World Circuit Marco Simoncelli on September 4.

Yamaha test rider Cal Crutchlow will replace the 36-year-old for the final six rounds of the season, starting at the Aragon GP.

Two Sri Lankans missing from Commonwealth Games traced, one missing



Chamila Dilani Marappulige (white) of Sri Lanka competes against Ashleigh-Anne Barnikel (blue) of Wales during the Women's Judo on day four of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games in England on Monday. (Courtesy: Getty Images)

DPA
COLOMBO

A Sri Lankan athlete and official who went missing during the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham have been traced, but a third remains missing, a Sports Ministry official said Thursday.

The tracing of the two members of the contingent has been conveyed to the

Sri Lankan officials by West Midlands Police overseeing the area where the Commonwealth Games are being held.

"Both have been spoken to and are safe and well, so are no longer being treated as missing people", a statement by the West Midlands Police said.

The two persons traced are a female Judo athlete Chamila Dilani and a team manager Asela de Silva who were among a contingent of 161 sports persons and officials from Sri Lanka. However a third person, wrestler Sanith Chathuranga, still remains missing.

Soon after the disappearance all passports of the entire contingent had been collected as a precaution, the official said.

Sri Lanka has so far won a silver medal and two bronze medals at the Games in Birmingham.

Sri Lanka is currently trying to overcome an economic crisis which led to fuel, gas, food and medicine shortages.

LEBRON AND GALAN SURVIVE SCARE, MAKE MADRID PREMIER PADEL P1 SEMIS

Champions and top-seeded Spanish pair of Juan Lebron and Alejandro Galan survived a scare against Argentinians Federico Chingotto and Juan Tello on their way to the semi-finals of the Madrid Premier Padel P1 tournament in Madrid on Thursday. Treating a vociferous crowd to great thrills, the Spaniards rallied from being a set down to overcome their opponents 2-6, 6-4, 6-4. Down 0-2 in the second set, Lebron and Galan fought gallantly and showed patience including when a VAR review of a shot that was thought to be a double from Lebron was cleared in their favour, much to the delight of the home crowd. Levelling scores at 3-3, the Spaniards went on to claim the set and eventually the match with a lucky service point that bounced over the net. The other quarter-finals were on at the time of going to the press. (TNN)



Badosa and Jabeur in quarter-finals

STATS PERFORM/DPA
BERLIN

SECOND and third seeds Paula Badosa and Ons Jabeur eased into the Silicon Valley Classic quarter-finals on Wednesday, while Simona Halep and Jessica Pegula were bundled out of the Citi Open.

Last month's Wimbledon finalist Jabeur proved too good for American Madison Keys 7-5, 6-1, winning in one hour and 22 minutes.

Jabeur, playing for the first time since Wimbledon, converted six of nine break points for the match, dominating the second set where she won 90.9 per cent first serve points.

Second seed Badosa survived a scare to win over qualifier Elizabeth Mandlik 6-2, 5-7, 7-6 (7-5) in two hours and 31 minutes.

Eighth seed Karolina Pliskova was knocked out by American Amanda Anisimova 3-6, 7-5, 6-1, while last year's runner-up Daria Kasatkina beat Taylor Townsend 6-4, 6-0 at the San Jose event.



Ons Jabeur of Tunisia returns a shot against Madison Keys during the Mubadala Silicon Valley Classic, part of the Hologic WTA Tour, at Spartan Tennis Complex in San Jose, California, on Wednesday. (Getty/AFP)

Two-time major winner Halep was forced to retire due to illness and top seed Jessica Pegula was bundled out by Daria Saville at the Citi Open

in Washington.

In warm conditions, the 30-year-old Romanian battled throughout the match but eventually retired down 7-5,

2-0 to Anna Kalinskaya after one hour and six minutes.

Halep had fought back from a 4-0 deficit in the first set to square it up at 5-5, be-

fore losing the first set.

However, the former world number one succumbed to illness early in the second set, handing Kalinskaya her passage into the quarter-finals.

On a dramatic day for the Citi Open favourites, world number seven Pegula was eliminated by Saville in straight sets in one hour and 38 minutes, 7-5, 6-4.

Pegula was not helped by a first-serve percentage of 44.8 per cent, while she struggled to convert break points, with the Australian saving nine of 10 for the match.

Saville's win means she is 3-3 against top 20 opponents this year, progressing into the last eight where she will face Canadian qualifier Rebecca Marino. Marino, who beat Venus Williams in her return to singles in the first round on Monday, knocked off Germany's Andrea Petkovic 6-3, 3-6, 6-1.

Estonian sixth seed Kaia Kanepi progressed into the quarters where she will face Kalinskaya after beating China's Zhu Lin 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Dortmund want to make a statement in Bundesliga opener: Terzic



Dortmund's headcoach Edin Terzic gives an interview prior to the German Cup (DFB Pokal) first round football match TSV 1860 Munich v BVB Borussia Dortmund at the Gruenwalder Street Stadium in Munich, southern Germany on July 29, 2022. (AFP)

DPA
DUSSELDORF

BORUSSIA Dortmund want to make a statement in their Bundesliga opener on Saturday, coach Edin Terzic has said amid big optimism from club president Reinhard Rauball.

"We are ready to make a first statement and are looking forward to it," returning Terzic told reporters on Thursday.

Last season's runners-up don't have an easy task though because they face fourth-place finishers Bayer Leverkusen.

Assistant Terzic was named interim coach in December 2020 until the end of that season, winning the German Cup in his final game. He then became technical director and is now back as head

coach after Marco Rose had to go after just one year despite finishing second behind Bayern Munich.

"I'm really looking forward to [this upcoming home game]. But it's not about me, it's about the team. It's going to be loud, we're really looking forward to it. We want to show a good performance on Saturday."

Rauball meanwhile told the Ruhr-Nachrichten paper that the return of the popular Terzic and their new summer arrivals make him very optimistic for the season.

"Edin Terzic rightly carries the hopes of the fans," Rauball said.

"Not only because of sympathy, but because he also proved with a title as BVB

coach in a very short time that confidence is appropriate." Dortmund lost star striker Erling Haaland in summer but have also landed Germany defenders Nico Schlotterbeck and Niklas Sule for more stability at the back, and young national team forward Karim Adeyemi, among others.

"We brought valuable and necessary reinforcements into the team. This and the good last season in the Bundesliga make me very optimistic," Rauball said.

Sule will be missing with a thigh-muscle injury Saturday but Terzic said he hopes to have the former Bayern player back soon.

"He is pain-free by now. Hopefully it won't take too long," Terzic said, with Sule expected to miss two to three weeks.

Another newcomer, forward Sebastian Haller, is however out for months having had a malignant testicular tumour removed and now facing chemotherapy.

"Sebastian Haller's illness is primarily a human tragedy. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that it will have a happy ending. Of course, such a diagnosis is a blow that is difficult to take at first," Rauball said.

"In sporting terms an important piece of the puzzle has also broken away for us," he added.

Dortmund have said they are looking for a new striker to fill in for Haller but Terzic did not want to join any speculation on this issue.

"It is my job to work with the available players. And I am convinced that we will play a decent season with these players," he said.



Everton's English striker Dominic Calvert-Lewin (C) fights for the ball with Dynamo Kiev players during a club friendly at Goodison Park in Liverpool on July 29, 2022. (AFP)

Calvert-Lewin out for six weeks in major blow for Everton

PA MEDIA/DPA
LONDON

EVERTON have been dealt a major blow ahead of the new Premier League season after manager Frank Lampard revealed Dominic Calvert-Lewin will be sidelined for six weeks.

The 25-year-old England striker sustained what Lampard called a "freak" knee injury in training ahead of Everton's fixture against Chelsea at Goodison Park on Saturday. Calvert-Lewin's injury leaves the Toffees short on options up front after Richardson was sold to Tottenham, while Salomon Rondon is suspended for the visit of Lampard's former club.

"Losing a player of Dominic's quality in the week going into the first game is obviously going to affect you," said Lampard.

"We are probably looking at around six weeks for the injury. It has been assessed over a couple of days and that is where we are at.

"It comes with the territory of having a squad and training

at this level. We will have to work around it.

"Other players will have to step up and do the job and hopefully that six weeks passes relatively quickly and we get Dominic back."

Calvert-Lewin missed four months of last season with a persistent muscle injury and was restricted to just 17 Premier League appearances, scoring five times.

Lampard added: "Dominic was looking great, really fit, really strong.

"I took him out of one pre-season game as a precaution but through pre-season we were constantly commenting on how good he looked, seemed, and we were very positive.

"It is a knock for everybody, particularly him, because I know the feeling as a player when you are getting pumped up and ready for the new season.

"I feel for him, but we will support him, as we always do, and as a team and squad we just have to look at the games in front of us."

Advisor to Minister of Interior praises large turnout of students at 'Police Officers of Tomorrow' programme

QNA
DOHA

ADVISOR to the Minister of Interior and Vice President of the Supreme Council of the Police College, Major-General Dr. Abdullah Yousef Al Mal, has praised the large turnout of students for 'Police Officers of Tomorrow' programme. The college has been organising this programme for several years.

In his remarks during the graduation ceremony of the second batch of students on Thursday, Dr Al Mal said the college has been organising the programme for several years, and has used the summer vacation to develop students' physical skills, in addition to holding recreational and educational activities for them. He pointed out that the programme, which resumed after the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, witnessed a large turnout of students which shows their keenness to use their free time in a way that benefits them in the religious, educational and physical as-



pects. He also praised the graduates' presentations during the ceremony which reflected the advanced level of the training programme.

Director of the Training Department at Police College Major Fahad Saeed Al Subaie pointed out that the Police Officers of Tomorrow programme attracts students in the age group of 9 - 11 years, aiming at enhancing the values in them and strengthening their self-confidence, while developing leadership skills.

He pointed out that the programme was designed to employ the capabilities of its participants and prepare them for the future to be good citizens, valuable for themselves and their country through military training, sports, and suitable educational lectures.

The ceremony featured various skilful shows by a host of students which reflected the sophisticated training level, including self-defence skills, handling some security



situations, arrest and control of fugitives, and marksmanship skills and rifle use.

The ceremony concluded with a speech delivered by the student Saeed Rashid Al Buraidy, who expressed his thanks, on behalf of his colleagues, to the Police College and all its members, who worked on upgrading their skills, and transferring their police and sports experiences.

For their part, the parents expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Ministry

of Interior represented in the Police College which organised a remarkable programme that enhanced the skill and capabilities of their sons.

The honoured second batch included approximately 300 students who received two weeks of military and athletic field trainings to upgrade their physical fitness and learn the core skills of marksmanship, swimming, and self-defence, in addition to the recreational and athletic contests and educational lectures.



Qatar Aviation Services joins leading environmental management system

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

QATAR Aviation Services (QAS), the subsidiary of Qatar Airways Group, announced its partnership with International Air Transport Association (IATA) to become the first ground handler globally to join the new expansion of the IATA Environmental Assessment Programme (IEnvA) for ground service providers.

The IEnvA programme for ground service provides a framework for achieving environmental sustainability across all ground operations. Taking advantage of the knowledge and experience garnered from the airline programme, ground service providers can rely on its definitive guidance to reduce their impact on the environment, and improving health and safety for both employees and the community, while maintaining operational efficiency.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Akbar Al Baker said: "I am proud to lead the efforts to create a sustainable aviation industry. Environmental sustainability awareness across the entire organisation is critical to the success of Qatar Airways Group. Through IEnvA, Qatar Aviation Services will be able to demonstrate the value of environmental compliance and ensure sustainability in its operations."

IATA's Director General Willie Walsh said: "We're delighted to count Qatar Aviation Services as the first ground handler to join the newly extended IATA's IEnvA programme. Sustainability is a critical challenge for our industry. By taking proactive steps to measure their impacts and address them throughout their operations with IEnvA, QAS and Qatar Airways Group will back their sustainability achievements with the most comprehensive global standard environmental certification available in the industry."

Qatar Aviation Services, led by the Senior Vice President Mehmet Murat



Nursel, is committed to minimising the environmental impact of its operations, playing an instrumental role in helping Hamad International Airport gain its world-class standing as environmental leader amongst airports globally. Through its participation, it aims to meet and exceed the highest environmental standards while preparing for future expansion strategies.

The IEnvA programme is an Environmental Management System initially offered to airlines, which demonstrates equivalency to the ISO 14001: 2015 environmental management systems standard. It provides a structured approach to managing the

environment, as well as reporting and mitigating environmental impacts. As a result, organisations are able to more formally incorporate sustainability and environmental compliance strategies into their operations.

Qatar Airways first achieved the highest level of IEnvA accreditation in 2017, becoming the first airline in the Middle East to do so. The airline has since played a key role in contributing to the successful development of the IEnvA programme. The programme covers all aspects of Qatar Airways global operations, including flight and ground operations and corporate activities.



GU-Q community unites through a shared passion for footballing

TRIBUNE NEWS NETWORK
DOHA

AS the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 approaches, a focus on football has infused the campus community at the Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q) from the classroom to the pitch.

As the pandemic restriction began to be lifted in Fall 2021, a few GU-Q students took the initiative to organise intramural football matches for teams of students at the HBKU Student Center and invited the faculty to play in a tournament and to serve as referees in the final game.

For Dr Yehia Mohamed, associate professor of Arabic, the student initiative was an unexpected way to re-engage with students. "My introduction to the men's football team began the year before in my role as a volunteer coach. This intramural initiative was a wonderful way to open bridges and create connections outside of the classroom with students, and a reminder of the outstanding sports resources and facilities we have access to as part of the Multiversity in Education City."

"Staff, students, faculty and their families coming together and shar-

ing a fun evening outside the walls of the campus greatly boosted the sense of community," said Anwaar Malik (SFS'24), who is also the president of the GU-Q Football Club.

In Spring 2022 a faculty versus students match leveled up the competition by including customized jerseys and an audience of students, staff, faculty and family members who cheered on their favourite team from the sidelines. The student team dominated, winning against the faculty team 6-2. "It's a really nice feeling to be able to engage with the professors outside the classroom, especially in something that we are all really passionate about," said International Economics major Hamza AlSioufy (SFS'24).

The semester of activities culminated in a three-hour long "festival of football" which saw four teams composed of students and one member of faculty or staff compete for the winning title. After six intense matches, the team captained by Visiting Associate Professor Ramon Cobo Reyes Cano nabbed the victory, with the team led by Associate Professor Omar Khalifah garnering second place.

Fans cheering on players includ-

ed Dean Clyde Wilcox, and Visiting Professor and cruciverbalist Leonard Williams. "I genuinely loved watching my students play football in Education City, and they clearly appreciate faculty and staff who care enough to join in the fun," said Dr Williams.

Dr Yehia Mohamed says future plans include ensuring opportunities for women's football competitions and activities as part of a regular football calendar of events that will bring the GU-Q community together. The upcoming World Cup tournament has also inspired plans for a diverse array of events and activities to connect the games to the key issues in international affairs students study in the classroom.

Enisha Sharma (SFS'24), International Economics major and head of public relations with the Football Club, summed up the significance of the intramural activities that emerged in response to unprecedented circumstances. "With different cultures, finding an event that unites the Georgetown community could be a challenge. With football, we've been able to overcome that barrier, allowing us to develop a sense of a well-knit community despite the challenges that had kept us apart."

Fath Al Khair 5 promotes Qatari heritage, FIFA WC Qatar 2022

QNA
DOHA

THEY are 17 Qatari sailors, led by Al-Nokhadha Muhammad Al Sada. They have spread their sails to the wind and launched the Fath Al Khair 5 cruise that links the past to the bright present.

Their journey, which will last for a month and a half, set off on July 4 at the port of Grand Hyper Marine in Malta, and will go through ports in Italy, France and Spain to introduce the authentic Qatari maritime heritage to the people and promote the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. The voyage is within the framework of Katara's strategy of documenting the glorious past through sea voyages that was at the heart of parents and grandparents and was their source of livelihood in



the era of pearl diving.

General Manager of the Cultural Village Foundation (Katara) Dr Khalid bin Ibrahim Al Sulaiti said, in a statement to Qatar News Agency

(QNA), that Fath Al Khair's fifth journey achieved more than one goal, while conveying the authentic Qatari maritime heritage and the life of its ancestors. It also promoted the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, he said.

Dr Al Sulaiti pointed out that the Fath Al Khair journey has opened wider horizons since its launch in 2012 and remained faithful to its role in linking the young generations of Qatar to their ancient past and glorious maritime heritage. It deepened the cultural ties that bind the Qatari people to brotherly and friendly peoples, he said.

Mohammed Al Sada, the journey's 'nokhadha', affirmed that the Beaches Department of Katara is trying hard to promote all the aspects related to Qatar's marine heritage. He stressed the keenness of Katara to follow the

traditional means in the maintenance process of the vessels. He pointed out that the success of the trip can only be achieved through the concerted efforts of all and overcoming fear.

Mohammed Al Sada added that the traditional sea attire of the sailors is what captures the attention of visitors, in addition to the gifts given to people by the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy and Katara to celebrate the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. The gifts include the competition's official ball Al Rihla, in addition to other gifts.

He added that Fath Al Khair receives warm welcome from Qatar's ambassadors, along with ministers, city mayors, local officials, and the media at all destinations. He said the final destination will be Barcelona on August 12.