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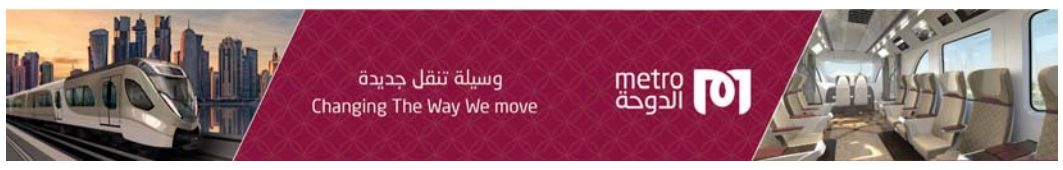
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MONDAY 20 JULY 2020





Mercedes star levels Schumacher's tally, grabs Formula 1 points lead

Hamilton claims record victory

AFP – BUDAPEST

Lewis Hamilton equalled one of Michael Schumacher's many records yesterday when he delivered a classic drive to become the first driver to complete a hat-trick of Hungarian Grand Prix victories.

The defending six-time champion, who won at the Hungaroring in 2018 and 2019, enlarged his overall total of Hungarian triumphs to eight, drawing level with Schumacher's eight wins at the French Grand Prix, the most by any driver at a single race venue.

Driving with exemplary concentration and aplomb, Hamilton controlled a tactical race from lights to flag, making light of changing conditions to deliver his 86th win, five short of Schumacher's record total of 91.

It was Hamilton's second win this season, following victory at the Styrian Grand Prix a week earlier, and lifted him to the top of the drivers' championship by a single point ahead of his Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas who won the opening Austrian Grand Prix.

"Round One was multiple different punches that I wasn't ready for," said Hamilton, referring to the defeat in the season opener.

"But I have refocused and we've just been on point here right through the weekend."

Max Verstappen was a remarkable second for Red Bull after his crew repaired severe damage to his car's suspension on the grid caused when the Dutchman had crashed before the start. He held off a late attack by Bottas to stay second by fractions of a second.

"It wasn't how I wanted it, of course, but the mechanics did an amazing job to fix the car so to pay them back with second place is great," said Verstappen.

Bottas came home a frustrated third, just metres behind, but ahead of Lance Stroll's Racing Point, Alex Albon in the second Red Bull and four-time champion Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari.

"It was a pretty bad race, to be honest," said Bottas.

"I lost it at the start. I reacted to a light on my dash that went off - instead of the start lights so I had to do the start again."

Sergio Perez was seventh in the second 'pink Mercedes' Racing Point ahead of Daniel Ricciardo of Renault, Kevin Magnussen of Haas and Carlos Sainz of McLaren. After an intense burst of pre-race drama, in which Verstappen crashed on his final lap to join the grid and a seemingly rushed 'end racism' gesture by many of the drivers, Hamilton was coolness personified.

Starting from the 90th pole of his career, he pulled clear to lead by three seconds on the opening lap, ahead of Stroll and Verstappen, all of them running on intermediate tyres in the tricky conditions.

Bottas jumped the start and was then bogged down and fell to sixth.

The champion pitted for slicks at the end of the second lap returning in fourth and was back on top by lap five with the two Haas cars of Magnussen and Grosjean in pursuit after a well-judged switch from wets to slicks.

After a fine start lifted him to fourth, Vettel followed Hamilton into the pits, but a tentative release by Ferrari cost him at least five seconds and dropped him to ninth.



By lap 20, Hamilton led Verstappen by 11 seconds and Stroll by 27 with Bottas fourth ahead of the two Haas men and Albon.

Bottas pitted on lap 34 shortly before Hamilton, 19 seconds clear of Verstappen, reported the first drops of anticipated rain. The Finn's immediate speed enabled a perfect under-cut of Stroll who, after pitting, emerged in fourth.

Verstappen came in for hards and then Hamilton for fresh mediums on lap 38, staying ahead by 19.418 with Bottas closing on the Dutchman by lap 40.

Bottas then pitted and clocked a fastest lap, heaping pressure on Red Bull's strategists: to stick or twist? With 12 laps to go, Hamilton lapped Vettel's Ferrari, leaving only three men behind him on the same lap.

"These tyres don't feel good," he had complained only seconds earlier.

Offered hard tyres at his final pit stop, Hamilton requested softs in a bid for fastest lap.

"What's going on," he asked his engineer Peter Bonnington. "Standby, Lewis, while I found out myself," came the reply as his crew ran into the pit-lane and back again.

Eventually, he pitted on lap 66, re-joining with a lead of 4.7 seconds in pursuit of fastest lap. He clocked it with 1:16.627 for a precious extra point and leadership of the championship.

FORMULA ONE: HUNGARIAN GRAND PRIX RESULTS

1. Lewis Hamilton (GBR/Mercedes) 1hr 36min 12.473sec
2. Max Verstappen (NED/Red Bull-Honda) at 8.702sec
3. Valtteri Bottas (FIN/Mercedes) 9.452
4. Lance Stroll (CAN/Racing Point-Mercedes) 57.579
5. Alexander Albon (THA/Red Bull-Honda) 1:18.316
6. Sebastian Vettel (GER/Ferrari) 1 lap
7. Sergio Perez (MEX/Racing Point-Mercedes) 1 lap
8. Daniel Ricciardo (AUS/Renault) 1 lap
9. Kevin Magnussen (DEN/Haas-Ferrari) 1 lap,
10. Carlos Sainz Jr (ESP/McLaren-Renault) 1 lap
11. Charles Leclerc (MON/Ferrari) 1 lap
12. Daniil Kvyat (RUS/AlphaTauri-Honda) 1 lap
13. Lando Norris (GBR/McLaren-Renault) 1 lap,
14. Esteban Ocon (FRA/Renault) 1 lap
15. Romain Grosjean (FRA/Haas-Ferrari) 1 lap
16. Kimi Raikkonen (FIN/Alfa Romeo Racing-Ferrari) 1 lap
17. Antonio Giovinazzi (ITA/Alfa Romeo Racing-Ferrari) 1 lap
18. George Russell (GBR/Williams-Mercedes) 1 lap
19. Nicholas Latifi (CAN/Williams-Mercedes) 5 laps

CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS DRIVERS

1. Lewis Hamilton (GBR)	63 pts
2. Valtteri Bottas (FIN)	58
3. Max Verstappen (NED)	33
4. Lando Norris (GBR)	26
5. Alexander Albon (THA)	22
6. Sergio Perez (MEX)	22
7. Charles Leclerc (MON)	18
8. Lance Stroll (CAN)	18
9. Carlos Sainz Jr (ESP)	14
10. Sebastian Vettel (GER)	9
11. Daniel Ricciardo (AUS)	8
12. Pierre Gasly (FRA)	6
13. Esteban Ocon (FRA)	4
14. Kevin Magnussen (DEN)	2
15. Antonio Giovinazzi (ITA)	2

CONSTRUCTORS

1. Mercedes 121 pts, 2. Red Bull-Honda 55, 3. McLaren-Renault 40, 4. Racing Point-Mercedes 40, 5. Ferrari 27, 6. Renault 12, 7. AlphaTauri-Honda 7, 8. Alfa Romeo Racing-Ferrari 2, 9. Haas-Ferrari 2

AFC ranks Al Sadd's Hassan, Miguel among best defenders

QNA – KUALA LUMPUR

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has chosen the players of the Qatari national team and Al Sadd club, Abdelkarim Hassan and Pedro Miguel among the best defenders in the 2018 AFC Championship League, the biggest continental club championship in Asia, after the great performances they have shown with their teams.

The AFC has posted on their official website the names of the defenders who were nominated to be on the list, which included 14 players, as the best will be chosen by voting.

Al Sadd defenders have been chosen according to their distinguished performance in the last AFC Champions League 2018.

Miguel entered the competition as the best central defender, while Hassan is competing as the best left-back defender to enter the best squad for the continental championship in 2018.



Pedro Miguel

The AFC shed light on the journey of Hassan and Miguel in numbers and statistics, where Hassan is considered one of the most prominent players in the left-back centre in Asia, and his performance contributed to taking Al Sadd to the semi-finals of the continental championship.

In 2018, he won the award for the best player in the Asian continent, as his performance shone mostly as a defender, but also as an offensive player.

As for Miguel was part of a backline that kept five clean sheets in their 12 games, as the team came so close to reaching their first final since 2011.


Abdelkarim Hassan

Chelsea's Olivier Giroud (centre) celebrates after scoring their first goal against Manchester United during the FA Cup semi-final plated at the Wembley Stadium, yesterday.

Chelsea beat United 3-1 to reach FA Cup final

REUTERS – LONDON

Chelsea beat Manchester United 3-1 yesterday to book their place in an all-London FA Cup final, helped by two errors from United goalkeeper David de Gea and an own goal by Harry Maguire.

Chelsea, who will face city rivals Arsenal in the Aug. 1 showpiece, had lost to United three times this season but looked brighter from the start at Wembley and took control with goals either side of halftime from Olivier Giroud and Mason Mount.

United were forced into a change at 0-0 late in the first half when Eric Bailly was carried off after clashing heads with fellow defender Maguire.

But it was Chelsea who took the lead 11 minutes into first-half stoppage time when Giroud flicked a cross by Cesar Azpilicueta at De Gea who failed to get enough of a hand on the ball to stop it spinning over the line.

Chelsea doubled the lead a minute after the restart when Mason Mount pounced on a poor pass by Brandon Williams to shoot from the edge of the box.

United struggled to create any chances to narrow the deficit and Chelsea sealed the win when Maguire, under pressure from Antonio Rudiger, connected with a cross from Marcos Alonso with his studs and diverted the ball past the hapless De Gea.

United scored a consolation goal when Bruno Fernandes converted a penalty in the 85th minute.

Quartararo wins MotoGP season-opener

AFP – JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA

Fabio Quartararo became the first French rider to win a Moto Grand Prix since 1999 as he took the flag in the season-opening race in Spain yesterday after Marc Marquez had a heavy crash and broke a bone in his arm.

Quartararo, 21, who rides for the Yamaha satellite outfit, had started on pole position and his main threat was removed when reigning world champion Marquez crashed out on lap 20.

"It's the most beautiful day of my life," an ecstatic Quartararo said as his team celebrated.

"We need to enjoy this, it's not every day you have your first MotoGP victory!" he added.

Six-time world champion Marquez had already come off the track on the fourth lap of a race held in sweltering conditions but just managed to hold on and get back in contention.

But worse was to come on the 20th lap when the Spaniard, who was lying third, lost control and came off his bike which then hit him on the arm as man and machine bounced across the infield gravel.

Marquez was taken away from the track in an ambulance and his Repsol Honda team later said he had broken his right humerus and would require an operation.

"A fall at Turn 3 while fighting for the podium has resulted in a broken right humerus for @marcmarquez93, who will travel to Barcelona for surgery," the team tweeted.

Yamaha rider Maverick Vinales took second place and Ducati's Andrea Dovizioso was third.

The first race of a season delayed and truncated by the coronavirus pandemic was run without spectators. The riders observed a minute's silence before the start in memory of victims of the virus.

Marquez has already earmarked Quartararo as his most serious challenger this season and this first victory for a Frenchman in MotoGP since Regis Laconi in Valencia in 1999 will only confirm that view.

Quartararo used the cornering ability of the Yamaha to pull away from his rivals and had stretched his lead to as much as six seconds at one point.

His victory was the first for a Yamaha satellite team in MotoGP.

Along with Marquez, it was also a bad start to the season for Italian great Valentino Rossi as he came off on lap 19 when in tenth place, crushing his hopes of scoring points.

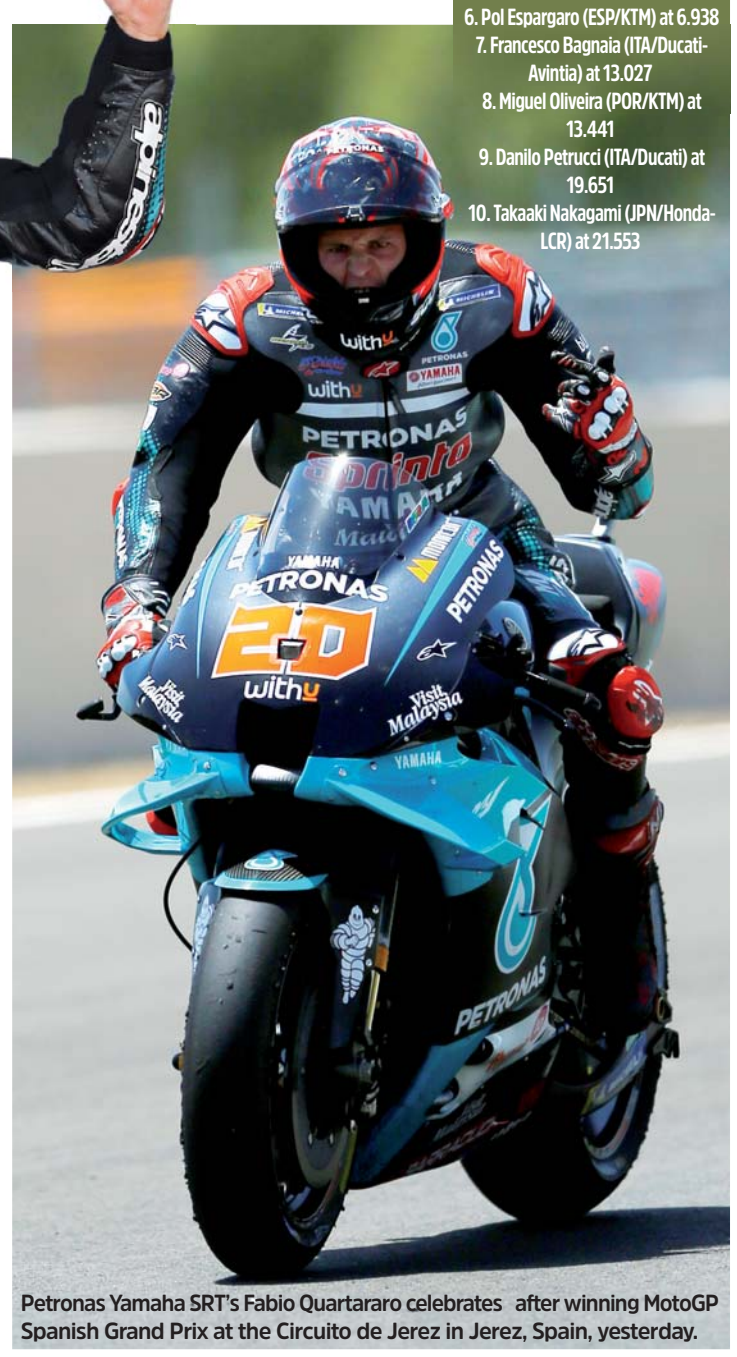
Rossi, the 41-year-old nine-time world champion, has already been told he will be replaced in Yamaha's main team next year when Quartararo steps up from Yamaha SRT.

There was some success for the Rossi family though when his half-brother Luca Marini won the Moto2 race in Jerez.

The next MotoGP will take place on the same Jerez circuit next Sunday.




Repsol Honda's Marc Marquez is being stretchered into an ambulance after crashing out during the race.


Petronas Yamaha SRT's Fabio Quartararo celebrates after winning MotoGP Spanish Grand Prix at the Circuito de Jerez in Jerez, Spain, yesterday.

MOTOGP: SPANISH GP RESULTS (TOP 10)

1. Fabio Quartararo (FRA/Yamaha-SRT)
2. Maverick Vinales (ESP/Yamaha) at 4.603sec
3. Andrea Dovizioso (ITA/Ducati) at 5.946
4. Jack Miller (AUS/Ducati-Pramac) at 6.668
5. Franco Morbidelli (ITA/Yamaha-SRT) at 6.844
6. Pol Espargaro (ESP/KTM) at 6.938
7. Francesco Bagnaia (ITA/Ducati-Avintia) at 13.027
8. Miguel Oliveira (POR/KTM) at 13.441
9. Danilo Petrucci (ITA/Ducati) at 19.651
10. Takaaki Nakagami (JPN/Honda-LCR) at 21.553

Marquez breaks arm in Jerez

REUTERS – JEREZ

Reigning world champion Marc Marquez of Honda broke his right arm in a crash at the season-opening Spanish Grand Prix in Jerez yesterday, his team has confirmed.

Marquez crashed at turn four with four laps to go, ending his race and injuring his shoulder in a fall where he was catapulted off his bike before bouncing off the track and into the gravel.

The 27-year-old Spaniard walked away from the crash with the help of track marshals but was clearly in pain after being hit by the bike and was later put in a neck brace before being taken to a medical centre for X-rays.

"(Marquez) suffered a ... fracture to his right humerus," Honda said in a statement, adding that he would travel to Barcelona for surgery.

"MotoGP medical staff have confirmed there is no other serious head or thoracic trauma but (he) will remain under observation for 12 hours." Honda said they are looking to have Marquez operated on Tuesday and an update on his recovery time would be given at a later date.

The Spaniard is the third rider to suffer an injury this weekend after Suzuki's Alex Rins injured his shoulder in a fall in qualifying on Saturday, while LCR Honda rider Cal Crutchlow missed the race after injuring his back in a crash in the warm-up session yesterday.

Petronas Yamaha's Fabio Quartararo won the Spanish Grand Prix for his first MotoGP victory.

Rahm grabs four-shot lead at Memorial, eyes top ranking

REUTERS – OHIO

Jon Rahm used a sizzling finish on a steamy hot afternoon at the Memorial Tournament to power four shots clear at the top of the leaderboard at Muirfield Village on Saturday, setting himself up for a run at the number one world ranking in golf.

Chasing a fourth career PGA Tour win, the big-hitting Spaniard got his day off to a quiet start by mixing a birdie and a bogey on his outward nine but he caught fire after the turn to card four straight birdies from the 13th for a four-under 68.

It was the third consecutive round in the 60s for the world number two, putting him at 12-under for the tournament and four shots ahead of Americans Tony Finau and Ryan Palmer, who had shared the overnight lead.

Finau had a much more adventurous back nine, mixing a pair of double-bogeys and a bogey with three birdies for a one-over 73, while Palmer also suffered a late stumble with bogeys at 16 and 18 for his 73.

Rahm and American Brendon Todd (68) were the only golfers to dip under 70 on a day of gusting winds that produced lightning fast greens and challenging scoring conditions.

If Rahm can hold on for the win on Sunday he would replace Northern Irishman Rory McIlroy at the top of the world rankings.

"It's extremely important. It's obviously a big deal," said Rahm, who would join Seve Ballesteros as the only Spaniards to reach number one.

"I can't sit here and... try to diminish it and avoid it because it would just be lying to myself because it is a big deal. But it is a consequence of me winning tomorrow.

"What's important to me tomorrow is hit good shots, be committed and get the job done."

With a four-shot cushion, Rahm will start Sunday in a commanding position but conditions for the final round are expected to be tougher than on Saturday which will make it even more difficult for someone to mount a charge.

Britain's Danny Willett, the 2016 Masters champion, had a 70 to sit alone in fourth, six off the lead, with Australia's Jason Day (72) and Sweden's Henrik Norlander (71) another stroke adrift at five-under.

McIlroy had an even par 72 for the second consecutive day to stand at two-under, a massive 10 strokes behind the leader.


Jon Rahm of Spain plays his shot from the 18th tee during the third round of The Memorial Tournament at Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, Ohio, on Saturday.

USPGA TOUR MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT SCORES

204 - Jon Rahm (ESP) 69-67-68
208 - Tony Finau 66-69-73, Ryan Palmer 67-68-73
210 - Danny Willett (ENG) 74-66-70
211 - Henrik Norlander (SWE) 74-66-71, Jason Day (AUS) 73-66-72
212 - Matt Wallace (ENG) 72-70-70, Chez Reavie 71-67-74
213 - Patrick Rodgers 70-72-71, Patrick Cantlay 70-70-73, Mackenzie Hughes (CAN) 74-66-73
214 - Scottie Scheffler 71-73-70, Brendan Steele 68-75-71, Kevin Na 74-69-71, Rory McIlroy 70-72-72, Jordan Spieth 70-70-74, Gary Woodland 68-70-76
215 - Brendon Todd 75-72-68, Matthew Wolff 77-68-70, Zhang Xinjun (CHN) 72-73-70, Dylan Frittelli (RSA) 73-68-74, Matthew Fitzpatrick (ENG) 75-66-74, Lucas Glover 69-72-74
216 - Bubba Watson 78-68-70, Carlos Ortiz (MEX) 74-72-70, Adam Hadwin (CAN) 76-70-70, Kim Si-woo (KOR) 73-73-70, Justin Thomas 74-67-75

Feeling better but game lacks sharpness: Woods

REUTERS – OHIO

Tiger Woods said his back was feeling better but his game remained a little out of sorts after carding a third-round one-under 71 at the Memorial Tournament in steamy Dublin, Ohio on Saturday, leaving him 11 shots off the overnight leaders.

Competing in a PGA Tour event for the first time in five months, Woods has looked both good and bad with a second-round four-over 76 on Friday sandwiched between 71s.

A five-time champion on the Jack Nicklaus designed Muirfield Village layout, Woods said his troublesome back was an issue during a plodding second round.

Yet he complained of a general lack of competitive sharpness on Saturday as his bid for a record-breaking 83rd tour title drifted out of sight.

"I was moving better today and felt like I did the first day, and consequently I could make the passes at the golf ball like I did the first day," Woods told reporters. "Unfortunately I didn't make any putts today".

"I think that getting back into the flow and competing again and playing at this level, I hadn't done that in a while.

"Playing home and playing out here is so very different, and making sure that I stay sharp and don't make any silly mistakes and dump the ball in the wrong spots or give myself bad angles, that's one of the things about playing competitive golf that's very different from playing at home."

With better range of motion to his surgically repaired back, Woods mixed four birdies with three bogies on Saturday avoiding the big mistakes he made on Friday, like a double-bogey on the par-four opening hole.

"Overall I felt like I played well today, controlled the ball well. I hit one really bad shot there at three, but other than that, it was a pretty good, solid day," said the 15-times major winner.

James trading card sold for $1.8m in auction

AGENCIES – LOS ANGELES

A rare LeBron James trading card sold for a whopping $1.8m at an auction.

Saturday's sale at Goldin Auctions nearly doubled the previous record for a modern-day card of $923,000 set in May for a card of Los Angeles Angels star Mike Trout, according to Yahoo Sports.

Upper Deck produced only 23 copies of this particular card, which was signed by James during his 2003-04 rookie season with the Cleveland Cavaliers. The card was in "gem mint" condition with a 9.5 grade (out of 10), according to Beckett Publications.

The card was purchased by collector Leore Avidar, according to Darren Rovell of Action Network.

A 16-time All-Star and four-time Most Valuable Player, James is currently chasing his fourth NBA title and first as a member of the Los Angeles Lakers. The 35-year-old veteran ranks third in league history with 34,087 points.

NBA exhibition games to open with 10-minute quarters

AGENCIES – ORLANDO

The NBA will ease back into action with upcoming exhibition games to consist of 10-minute quarters.

As the exhibition-game schedule proceeds, the regular 12-minute quarters will return, but with players spending more than four months out of action, the initial practice games will move much quicker.

The NBA exhibition-game schedule begins on Wednesday with four games. The Orlando Magic will face the Los Angeles Clippers, the Washington Wizards will meet the Denver Nuggets, the New Orleans Pelicans will play the Brooklyn Nets and the Sacramento Kings will be matched up against the Miami Heat.

The return of 12-minute quarters will come with each team's second exhibition game. All teams are expected to play three games before the regular season resumes July 30.

All NBA games from July 30 to the end of the season will be played in the Orlando, Fla., area as a result of the coronavirus pandemic that shut down the league in March.

Day 4: Old Trafford Test evenly poised

REUTERS - LONDON

England finished on 37-2 at stumps with a 219-run lead against West Indies on day four of the second test in Manchester yesterday as the tourists were bowled out for 287 after a dramatic late collapse when they lost six wickets to the new ball.

England, who failed to enforce the follow-on after West Indies reduced their lead to 182 runs, lost Jos Buttler and Zak Crawley cheaply as they tried to score quick runs, with Kemar Roach castling both batsmen.

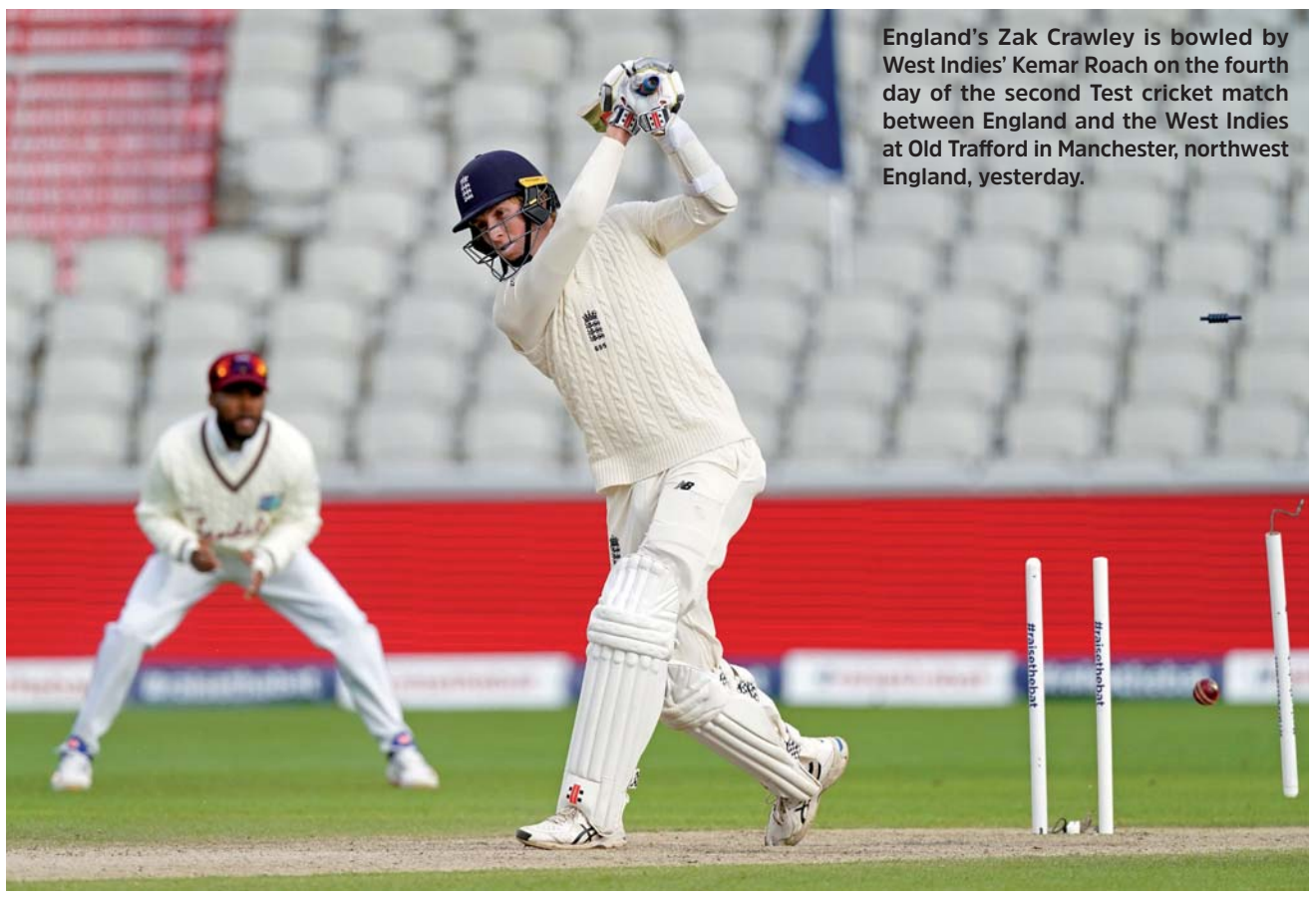
First innings centurion Ben Stokes was tasked with opening the innings and he was unbeaten on 16 along with skipper Joe Root (8 not out), with a tense finish on the cards today.

"It's going to be a good day tomorrow. We need to set it up in the first 45 minutes, an hour tomorrow," England bowler Stuart Broad told ***Sky Sports***.

"In a dream world we get two new balls tomorrow. We've given ourselves a chance of winning this game, which is a great position. The second new ball is going to be quite important, even if it's for four to six overs."

Earlier, half centuries from Kraigg Brathwaite (75) and Shamarh Brooks guided West Indies to 227-4 at tea before Broad and Chris Woakes cleaned up the tail with three wickets each.

Brooks was the first to fall when Broad trapped him leg before wicket for 68 and the England pacer struck again in his next over to bowl Jermaine Blackwood for a duck. Broad continued to make the new ball sing in his following over to trap Shane Dowrich lbw for another duck and the visiting wicket-keeper also cost his team a review as Hawk Eye confirmed umpire Michael Gough's decision.



England's Zak Crawley is bowled by West Indies' Kemar Roach on the fourth day of the second Test cricket match between England and the West Indies at Old Trafford in Manchester, northwest England, yesterday.

Woakes then got into the act to dismiss West Indies skipper Jason Holder, who edged the ball to Joe Root in the slips, reducing the visitors to 260-8 to give England hopes of enforcing the follow-on.

A half century from Roston Chase (51) ensured England would bat again before his resistance came to an end when Woakes rapped him on the pads before Shannon Gabriel was bowled out for the third duck in the innings. West Indies have a 1-0 lead in the three-test series, which is being played behind closed doors due to the COVID-19 pandemic, after winning the first Test in Southampton.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND, 1st Innings ..... 469-9 dec
WEST INDIES, 1st Innings (overnight: 32-1)
K. Brathwaite c and b Stokes 75
J. Campbell lbw b Curran 12
A. Joseph c Pope b Bess 32
S. Hope c Buttler b Curran 25
S. Brooks lbw b Broad 68
R. Chase lbw b Woakes 51
J. Blackwood b Broad 0
S. Dowrich lbw b Broad 0
J. Holder c Root b Woakes 2
K. Roach not out 5
S. Gabriel b Woakes 0
Extras (b1, lb12, nb2, w2)..... 17
Total (all out, 99 overs, 432 mins) 287
Fall of wickets: 1-16 (Campbell), 2-70 (Joseph), 3-123 (Hope), 4-199 (Brathwaite), 5-242 (Brooks), 6-248 (Blackwood), 7-252 (Dowrich), 8-260 (Holder), 9-287 (Chase), 10-287 (Gabriel)
Bowling: Broad 23-7-66-3 (2w); Woakes 21-1-0-42-3; Curran 20-4-70-2; Bess 21-3-67-1; Root 1-1-0-0; Stokes 13-3-29-1 (2nb)
ENGLAND, 2nd Innings
B. Stokes not out 16
J. Buttler b Roach 0
Z. Crawley b Roach 11
J. Root not out 8
Extras (lb1, nb1) 2
Total (2 wkts, 8 overs, 44 mins) 37
To bat: R Burns, D Sibley, O Pope, C Woakes, S Curran, D Bess, S Broad
Fall of wickets: 1-0 (Buttler), 2-17 (Crawley)
Bowling: Roach 4-0-14-2; Gabriel 4-0-22-0 (1nb);

Arteta hopes Arsenal's FA Cup run can persuade Aubameyang to stay

AFP - LONDON

Mikel Arteta hopes Arsenal's run to the FA Cup final can persuade Wembley hero Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang to stay at the club.

Aubameyang underlined his value to Arsenal with a brace in their shock 2-0 win over FA Cup holders Manchester City in the semi-final on Saturday.

But the Gabon forward has just a year to run on his contract and has been linked with Barcelona and Paris Saint Germain, with talks over a new deal to stay at Arsenal yet to produce an extension.

The 31-year-old has admitted he has a big decision to make over his future. But Arsenal boss Arteta is confident his team's improved form and their forthcoming FA Cup final appearance could be enough to convince Aubameyang to stay.

"Good and beautiful moments, they are always better than the bad ones," Arteta said. "As I told you, the way I look at him when I speak with him, he sounds pretty convinced.

"But obviously if he can see that success and the direction we are taking is the right one, I think he will be more positive about it, yes.

"Hopefully it will help him to be more convinced we are going in the right direction."

Arsenal have clearly improved since Arteta arrived in December and Gunners defender Kieran Tierney said the Spaniard has created a better team spirit.

"It's a good feeling in the squad now, it's positive and that's all you can ask for," Tierney told Arsenal Digital. "We've been working on that since the first day (Mikel) came in and we're getting closer to where we want to be. I think you always need to believe, and coming into this game as well you had to believe we could win and we did that. We take confidence, we take belief and we'll keep building on it."

Kane strikes as Spurs dent Leicester's CL bid

AFP - LONDON

Harry Kane dealt a major blow to Leicester's hopes of qualifying for the Champions League yesterday as the Tottenham striker scored twice in a 3-0 win that boosted his side's bid to reach the Europa League.

Tottenham took the lead through James Justin's early own goal before Kane took centre stage with two superb finishes before half-time.

It could be a hammer blow to fourth-placed Leicester's Champions League dreams.

They are ahead of fifth placed Manchester United only on goals scored and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side have played a game less than Leicester.

United return to league action against West Ham on Wednesday before a decisive showdown against Leicester at the King Power Stadium on the last day of the season next Sunday.

Chelsea, who have two games left against Liverpool and Wolves, remain one point above Leicester in third.

Brendan Rodgers' side have won just two of their eight league games since the coronavirus hiatus, potentially squandering a golden opportunity to return to the Champions League for the first time since 2016-17.

After a fourth win in their last five games, Tottenham climb to sixth place with one game remaining at Crystal Palace.

Wolverhampton Wanderers, two points behind Tottenham, would go back above Jose Mourinho's side if they beat Palace in their penultimate match today.

Mourinho has insisted he isn't embarrassed at having to motivate the 2019 Champions League finalists for their push to reach the less glamourous Europa League.

Mourinho's players seem to agree judging by the way they put Leicester to the sword.

They took the lead in the sixth minute thanks to a large stroke of luck.

Son Heung-min cut back inside for a shot that took a wicked deflection off Justin as it flashed into the net, with Leicester's appeal for offside against Kane rejected by VAR.

Leicester initially responded well and Wes Morgan's header caused panic in the Tottenham defence, but Jamie Vardy's backheeled effort was saved by Hugo Lloris.

Lloris was tested again moments later as he plunged to his left to make a one-handed save from Ayoze Perez's close-range half-volley.

Kasper Schmeichel made an equally good stop at the other end when the Leicester keeper tipped over Son's drive after he ran onto Harry Winks' long pass.

Kane had netted 14 times in his previous 13 games against Leicester and he tormented them again in the 37th minute.

Breaking at speed from a cleared Leicester corner, Lucas Moura slipped a pass to Kane, who timed his run perfectly to beat the offside trap and guide a fine first-time finish past Schmeichel with his supposedly weaker left foot.

Kane followed his 22nd club goal of the season with an even better strike three minutes later.

Cutting in from the left side of the Leicester area, Kane shifted the ball away from the slow-to-react Ryan Bennett before curling a brilliant strike into the far corner.

Leicester were facing certain defeat, but they could still help their European ambitions by improving their goal difference. Perez's long-range effort was well saved by Lloris, while substitute Demarai Gray was also denied by the French World Cup winner.

Harvey Barnes couldn't beat Lloris either as Leicester slipped to a painful defeat.



Tottenham Hotspur's Harry Kane scores a goal during an English Premier League match against Leicester City, Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, London, Britain, yesterday. Kane struck twice as Tottenham Hotspur dealt a huge blow to Leicester City's hopes of a top-four finish with a 3-0 victory in the Premier League yesterday.

PREMIER LEAGUE RESULTS

Bournemouth 0
Southampton 2 (Ings 41, Adams 90+8)

Tottenham 3 (Justin 6-og, Kane 37, 40) Leicester 0
Played Saturday
Norwich 0 Burnley 2 (Wood 45+5, Godfrey 80-og)

PLAYING MONDAY
Brighton vs Newcastle (1700 GMT), Sheffield United vs Everton (1700 GMT), Wolves vs Crystal Palace (1915 GMT)

PLAYING TUESDAY
Aston Villa vs Arsenal (1915 GMT), Watford vs Manchester City (1700 GMT)

PLAYING WEDNESDAY
Liverpool vs Chelsea (1915 GMT), Manchester United vs West Ham (1700 GMT)

Leeds' vision is to return to Champions League: Kinnear

REUTERS - LONDON

Leeds United have only reached 'base camp' after securing promotion to the Premier League and their vision is to return to the Champions League in the coming seasons, chief executive Angus Kinnear has said.

Leeds were promoted to the Premier League on Friday after second-placed West Bromwich Albion's loss at Huddersfield Town before being confirmed as champions with Brentford's defeat by Stoke City on Saturday.

Leeds played European football for five consecutive seasons between 1998 and 2003 and reached the semi-finals of the Champions League in 2001. Kinnear, who was appointed in 2017, believes the club must strive to hit those heights once again.

"Whilst we're celebrating, whilst we're all very excited, we've got back to where we belong. This really is base camp for Leeds," Kinnear said.

"Now it's going to be really about building on that and making sure that over the next few years we start to compete at the level Leeds should be competing in, which ultimately is the top six.

"Leeds should have a Premier League team. Candidly, Leeds should have a Champions League team and that's the vision."

Three-time English champions Leeds were relegated from the Premier League in 2004 and struggled to compete for promotion until the arrival of Marcelo Bielsa in 2018. Bielsa's contract is due to expire at the end of the season but Kinnear believes the former Argentina coach is in for the long haul.

"He has a review, he knows the direction he wants to take the club in," the Leeds chief said. "The challenge with Marcelo is his intentions are always a bit of a mystery...think he's fallen in love with the club. I think he's committed to it."

Striker Patrick Bamford said the club's achievement had not fully sunk in as yet, while captain Liam Cooper hailed his team-mates for exemplary performances throughout the season.

"People have said we're going to go down in history for what we've done, but last night was probably only a small part of the celebration," Bamford said.

"I'm absolutely delighted, this club has been in the doldrums for 16 years and to be part of the club and this group of players in honestly unbelievable," Cooper said.