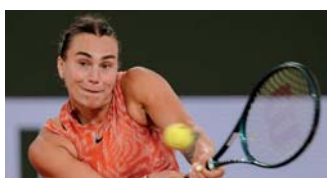
SPORT ↘14

'EVERY LOSS IS EXTRA MOTIVATION': SHORT MEMORY KEY TO SUCCESS FOR ARYNA SABALENKA



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DUTCH DEFENDER DALEY BLIND ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL



The Peninsula SPORT

THURSDAY 15 AUGUST 2024 | 16



Al Sadd aim for quick turnaround in Qatar SC tie



Al Sadd's Akram Afif during team's training session.

FAWAD HUSSAIN
THE PENINSULA

DOHA: Reigning champions Al Sadd are looking to bounce back strongly in the Ooredoo Stars League (OSL) after suffering from a shock defeat to Al Shamal in their opening match of the season.

The Felix Sanchez-coached side will take on Qatar SC at the Khalifa International Stadium on Saturday as the second round of the league begins tomorrow with Al Duhail and Al Rayyan securing the top two spots respectively after flying starts in the inaugural week.

Al Shamal had defeated Al Sadd 2-1 earlier this week, thanks to a brace by striker Baghdad Bounedjah who left the Wolves ahead of the new season after a long stint with the club.

Al Sadd goalkeeper Meshaal Barsham said focus will be the key for Al Sadd, who also clinched the Amir Cup crown in the previous season.

Title holders Al Sadd will hope to secure their first three points on Saturday as second round of OSL kicks off tomorrow.

"We must stay focused and work hard to achieve the team's goals this season," Barsham had said after the defeat.

"Luck was not on our side in the match, as many opportunities that could have turned the game in our favour were missed. But it's still the start of the season and players will learn from mistakes and improve their performance in the upcoming matches."

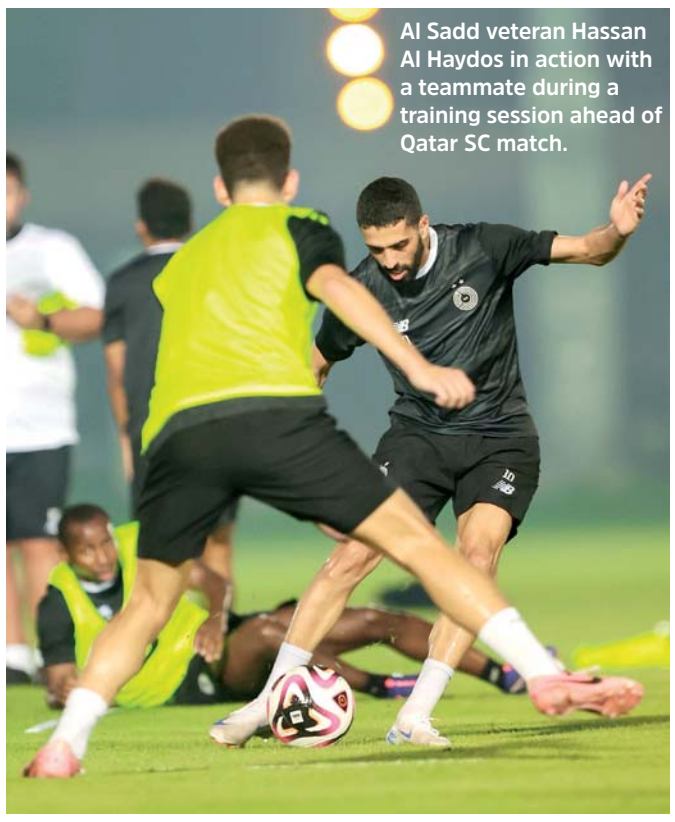
Tomorrow's heavyweight tie between Al Duhail and Al Rayyan will be the highlight of the second round with fans expecting a thrilling battle between the title contenders.

Al Duhail got off to an explosive start thrashing Qatar SC 6-1 with Kenyan striker Michael Olunga netting a hat-trick. Al Rayyan were also impressive in their first game as they outclassed Umm Salal 3-1.

Another anticipated match in the second round will be played between Al Arabi and Al Wakrah as both the sides will target their first victory of the OSL season. They will square off at Al Thumama Stadium on Saturday.

Al Arabi were held to a goalless draw by Al Shahania while Al Wakrah conceded a late goal from Al Ahli to share points following a 2-2 draw.

Hoping to continue their winning start, Al Shamal will be in action against Umm Salal at Al Janoub Stadium tomorrow.



Al Sadd veteran Hassan Al Haydos in action with a teammate during a training session ahead of Qatar SC match.

Mbappe strikes on debut as Real beat Atalanta in UEFA Super Cup

WARSAW: Kylian Mbappe struck on his Real Madrid debut to help his new side claim a record sixth UEFA Super Cup with a 2-0 win over Atalanta yesterday in Warsaw.

The superstar French forward has waited years to play for his dream club and after finally signing for Los Blancos this summer at the end of his Paris Saint-Germain deal, celebrated his first appearance with a goal.

Fede Valverde broke the deadlock from close range for the Champions League holders in the 59th minute after the Italian Europa League winners held their own in the first half.

Madrid began to rack up the chances and Mbappe rifled home in the 68th minute after Jude Bellingham spotted his dart into space in the box to seal the victory.

Madrid's triumph ensured coach Carlo Ancelotti equalled former Los Blancos coach Miguel Munoz on a joint-record 14 titles won at the helm of the club.

The Italian's first task this season is designing a system that can get the best out of his array of attacking stars.

Mbappe began through the middle of Madrid's forward line, flanked by Vinicius Junior on the left and Rodrygo Goes on the right, in the first look at how he might fit into Ancelotti's plans this season.

As a result England international Bellingham played as part of the midfield trio rather than in the advanced position he began last season in to such devastating goal-scoring effect.

Mbappe's only chance in a tight first half arrived in the 15th minute but his shot from the middle of the box was well blocked by Isak Hien.

Gian Piero Gasperini's Atalanta, appearing in their first Super Cup after stunning Bayer Leverkusen in the Europa League final last season, came close to taking the lead when Eder Militao headed Marten de Roon's cross ahead his own bar.

Bellingham was booked for a late challenge on Atalanta goalkeeper Juan Musso on a foray forward from midfield after taking a heavy touch to control a clever ball from Vinicius. Rodrygo clipped the top of Atalanta's crossbar just before the break after being teed up by Vinicius.

Madrid stopper Thibaut Courtois, who missed most of last season injured, produced a stunning one-handed save to tip over a Mario Pasalic header at the start of the second half.

Madrid broke the deadlock before the hour mark through Valverde, tapping home from close range while Atalanta's defence worried about Mbappe, who was moving with more freedom.

Bellingham, increasingly influential, fed Vinicius, who cut the ball across goal for the Uruguayan midfielder to tap home.

Vinicius should have doubled Madrid's lead when sent through on goal but Musso tipped over his effort.

Swedish defender Hien blocked from Bellingham as Madrid sought a second and then Musso thwarted the former Borussia Dortmund man. Mbappe eventually delivered it with a lethal finish after Bellingham kept an attack alive and spotted the Frenchman's clever movement. — *AFP*



Kylian Mbappe lifts the trophy as Real Madrid's players celebrate their win yesterday.



Kylian Mbappe celebrates after scoring Real Madrid's second goal.

AGCFF announces lucrative prize money for Gulf Club Champions League

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The Arab Gulf Cup Football Federation (AGCFF) yesterday revealed the launch of the Gulf Club Champions League in its new form as the tournament will be played from October 23, 2024 to April 15 of next year 2025, with the participation of eight clubs

Al Arabi (Qatar), Al Nasr (UAE), Al Riffa (Bahrain), Al Qadisiyah (Kuwait), Al Ettifaq (Saudi Arabia), Al Ahly Sana'a (Yemen), Dhofar (Oman), and Dohuk (Iraq) will take part in the competition.

Secretary General of the Arabian Gulf Cup Football Federation Jassim Al Rumaihi said that the total prize money has recorded a significant increase, competing with the prizes of the Asian Football Confederation.

Al Rumaihi added that incentives and prizes have been allocated to the participating teams, as the first-place winner (champion) will receive a cash prize of $3,000,000 (three million dollars), while the prize for the second-place team will be $1,000,000 (one million dollars).

Individual prizes have also been allocated for the participating players, as the best player in the tournament will receive a prize of ($50,000), and the best goalkeeper will receive a prize of ($50,000), in addition to the tournament's top scorer, who will also receive a prize of ($50,000).

The Arabian Gulf Cup Football Federation has allocated a financial contribution to the participating clubs and other financial incentive prizes according to the regulations, where a financial amount of $300,000 has been allocated to the clubs participating in the tournament, in addition to a reward for qualifying for the semi-finals by granting each participating club a financial amount of ($100,000).

While there will be a contribution for travel to play away from home, each participating club will be given a financial sum of ($30,000) thirty thousand dollars for each match played away from home, in addition to a match win bonus of ($30,000) thirty thousand dollars for each match it wins.

The approval to hold the Gulf Clubs Championship was issued during the meeting of the Executive Office of the Arabian Gulf Cup Federation, which was held at the end of last May, based on the proposal of the Federation's Competitions Committee.

Stage set for GCC U-15 Championship

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: The GCC Under-15 Basketball Championship will get underway at the Qatar University Hall today.

On the opening day, Saudi Arabia will meet United Arab Emirates while Bahrain will play Oman.

Qatar will start their campaign against Oman tomorrow with Kuwait playing against the UAE the same day.

The participating teams are divided into two groups. The Group A comprises Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, while Group B includes Qatar, Bahrain and Oman. The tournament will conclude on August 19.

Qatar will start their campaign against Oman tomorrow with Kuwait playing against the UAE the same day.

The Qatar Basketball Federation (QBF) has completed preparations to host the tournament in a befitting manner.

For its part, the technical staff of the Qatar national team completed their preparations and announced the list of players who will participate in the tournament, namely: Muhanna Khalid, Ibrahim Al Mufti, Jassim Al Qahtani, Hamad Al Langawi, Abdulaziz Al Qahtani, Majed Al Mansour, Mohammed Al Badi, Ahmed Yassin, Mohammed Al Qahtani, Mishaal Al Mughni, Sultan Abdullah, Mohammed Al Khuzaei, Azzam Yakan, and Saud Al Mughaiseeb.



Qatar squad takes part in a training session.

Philippines holds victory parade for Paris Olympics hero Yulo

MANILA: Thousands of shrieking fans jammed the streets of the Philippine capital Manila yesterday in a celebratory homecoming parade for Paris Olympics double gold medallist Carlos Yulo.

The 24-year-old gymnast rode a float with other Filipino Olympians through major Manila streets, having given his country its grandest Games result in 100 years.

By winning the men's floor exercises and vault, the diminutive Yulo tripled the country's overall Olympic gold medal haul to three.

With his medals hanging proudly on his neck, a beaming Yulo flashed victory signs to the adoring crowd who waved Philippine flags and took selfies using the float, adorned with the five Olympic rings, as backdrop.

Giant posters bearing Yulo's image hung from electric posts on the side of the streets.

Yulo's Olympic feat reignited hope for the 115 million Filipinos, many of whose lives are blighted by poverty, natural disasters and corruption.

Growing up in a poor neighbourhood in Manila, Yulo's journey showed that hard work and persistence pays in a world where the privileged often get a head start.

He fell in love with gymnastics at seven when his grandfather brought him to watch gymnasts at an old training facility near his home.



Philippines' Carlos Yulo (second right), Paris 2024 Olympic Games double gold medalist in gymnastics, and other Philippine athletes who competed at Paris 2024 Olympics, wave from a float during a celebratory homecoming parade along a street in Manila yesterday.

Battling homesickness, the formidable language barrier, and strenuous training, he left the country for Japan at 16 to train under Japanese coach Munehiro Kugimiya to pursue his dream of becoming a world-class athlete.

Lia Orellano, 82, ambled out of her home with the aid of a cane on Manila's downtrodden Leveriza Street to welcome her former neighbour Yulo.

"I'm very happy and proud of what he has achieved. He gave us hope that everyone can be like him from this small street," she said, recalling that when he was little Yulo loved "to do 'tumblings' here even on these dirty streets".

President Ferdinand Marcos met the 22 Filipino athletes Tuesday and handed them hefty bonuses.

Marcos gave Yulo a presidential citation and 20 million pesos ($350,000) on top of the 10 million-peso reward legally mandated for Olympic gold medallists.

Yulo also earned cash and gift pledges from other government offices and private companies.

These include a fully-furnished three bedroom condominium in one of Manila's poshy districts and a lifetime of free buffet of chicken barbeque and Japanese noodles.

A gastroenterologist also offered Yulo free colonoscopy tests after he turns 45. — ***AFP***

France launches probe over alleged cyberbullying of Algerian boxer Khelif

PARIS: France has launched a cyberbullying probe following a complaint by Algerian Olympic boxing champion Imane Khelif, who was at the centre of a gender controversy at the Paris Olympic Games, prosecutors said yesterday.

The investigation was opened on Tuesday into "cyberharrassment" following the high-profile gender row at the Games, the Paris public prosecutor's office said.

The athlete's lawyer Nabil Boudi said last week that Khelif, 25, had filed a complaint for online harassment, calling it a "fight for justice."

"The investigation will determine who was behind this misogynist, racist and sexist campaign, but will also have to concern itself with those who fed the online lynching," he said at the time.

Khelif won the women's 66kg final against China's Yang Liu in a unanimous points decision, having been the focus of intense scrutiny in the French capital during the Olympics.

Together with Taiwan's Lin Yu-ting, who won the 57kg women's final, Khelif was disqualified from last year's world championships after they failed gender eligibility testing.

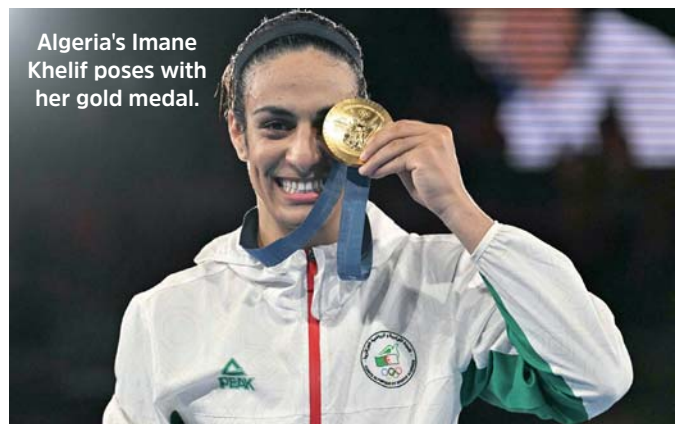
However they were cleared to compete in Paris, setting the stage for one of the biggest controversies of the Games.

The International Boxing Association's Russian president Umar Kremlev has targeted both athletes, claiming that Khelif and Lin had undergone "genetic testing that shows that these are men".

The IBA were responsible for the world championships in 2023 that Lin and Khelif were thrown out of, but the IOC cleared them to box in Paris.

Khelif said she is "a woman like any other."

"I was born a woman, lived a woman and competed as a woman," she told reporters about her eligibility. — ***AFP***



Algeria's Imane Khelif poses with her gold medal.

Thompson's Mavs to visit Warriors in NBA Cup opener

NEW YORK: Klay Thompson's new club, the Dallas Mavericks, will visit his long-time team, the Golden State Warriors, on the opening night of the NBA Cup, the league announced on Tuesday.

The second edition of the NBA's in-season tournament will start on November 12 and conclude on December 17 under the group-stage Cup schedule revealed by the league.

The complete NBA 2024-25 regular-season schedule will be released today.

Group-stage games, which also count in the league standings, will be played on Tuesdays and Fridays from November 12 to December 3.

A feature contest on Cup opening night will send reigning the Western Conference champion Dallas to San Francisco to face Golden State, with new Mavs guard Thompson, a five-time NBA All-Star, going against the Warriors, the squad with which he won four NBA titles and played for the past 13 seasons.

Also on opening night will be the New York Knicks at the Philadelphia 76ers in a matchup of expected Eastern Conference contenders.

Three days later, the defending Cup champion Los Angeles Lakers, who beat the Indiana Pacers in last year's final to complete an undefeated title run, will visit French star Victor Wembanyama, last season's NBA Rookie of the Year, and the San Antonio Spurs.

Indiana and Milwaukee, who met in last year's Cup semi-finals and the first round of last season's NBA playoffs, will meet on November 22 as well as Dallas and the Denver Nuggets, the past two West champions.

The closing day of group play will feature the Warriors visiting Denver. — ***AFP***

Dutch international Blind announces retirement

THE HAGUE: Former Manchester United and Bayern Munich defender Daley Blind announced his retirement from international football yesterday after 108 caps for the Netherlands, making way for a "talented new generation."

The 34-year-old was part of the Dutch squad that reached the semi-finals of the World Cup in 2014 and the quarter-finals in 2022, losing to Argentina both times.

"A talented new generation is coming up and after a good chat with the national manager, it is time to fully focus on my club and my family," Blind said in a message on X.

"It was an honour to wear the Oranje shirt 108 times, for me that is the greatest thing a player can achieve: representing your country," added the defender.

Blind came through the Ajax youth system, eventually breaking through into the first team and won four straight Eredivisie titles.

In 2014, he transferred to Manchester United for £14m ($23m, 17.7 million euros at the time) during the reign of Dutch coach Louis van Gaal. His stint at United brought success in the FA Cup and the Europa League but he went back to Ajax in 2018 for another spell that saw the club win three Eredivisie trophies. In January 2023, he signed for Bundesliga giants Bayern Munich, helping them to the German titles, before moving to Girona in the Spanish La Liga.

In 2019, Blind was diagnosed with an inflammation of the muscles around his heart after suffering dizziness during a Champions League match.

He had a heart defibrillator fitted, allowing him to continue his career. "For 11 years I have done everything I could to keep wearing that beautiful Oranje shirt. It has given me so much, so many beautiful moments. I cherish them," he wrote. — ***AFP***



Daley Blind celebrates after scoring for the Netherlands during the Qatar 2022 World Cup Round of 16 match against USA in this December 3, 2022 file photo.

India appoints SA's Morne Morkel as new bowling coach

NEW DELHI: India has appointed former South Africa Test fast bowler Morne Morkel as its bowling coach, the country's cricket board said yesterday.

Morkel will assist the World Cup-winning Indian batter Gautam Gambhir who took over as the team's head coach last month. The duo has previously worked together at the Lucknow Super Giants in the Indian Premier League (IPL) and the Durban Super Giants in the SA20.

Morkel's name was recommended by Gambhir, *ESPN Cricinfo* reported. The 39-year-old, who was Pakistan's bowling coach until last December, replaces former India fast bowler Paras Mhambrey.

Morkel, a strapping quickie, has 544 international wickets to his name. While he was formidable across formats -- South Africa's leading wicket-taker in the 2015 World Cup -- Test cricket was his forte. He picked up 309 scalps in the 86 Tests he played during his 12-year-long career.

India will host Bangladesh in their next outing in September, followed by another home series against New Zealand.

Later in the year, the team will travel to Australia. — ***AFP***

Szczesny tipped to join Saudi club after Juventus exit

ROME: Wojciech Szczesny has left Serie A giants Juventus after seven years, the Italian club said yesterday, with reports the Polish goalkeeper is set to join a club in Saudi Arabia.

Szczesny, 34, took over from Italy goalkeeping great Gianluigi Buffon following his arrival in 2017 but has fallen out of favour at the Turin club which won its last league title four years ago.

"Juventus and Wojciech Szczesny part ways after seven seasons together, with the two parties agreeing to a mutual termination of their contract," the club said in a statement.

The Polish international arrived from Premier League club Arsenal after spending two seasons on loan at Roma from 2015 to 2017. He played 252 matches for Juventus and kept 103 clean sheets, winning three Serie A and three Italian Cup trophies.

New coach Thiago Motta has recruited Michele Di Gregorio from Monza to replace him.

"Tek (Szczesny) will always be remembered as a dedicated player and a man who wore our jersey with pride and professionalism," the club said.

"Thanks for everything Tek, and good luck for the future!" — ***AFP***

Rookie Pieterse wins stage four of women's Tour de France



Dutch rider Puck Pieterse celebrates on the podium yesterday.

LIEGE: Rookie road rider Puck Pieterse clung on to win stage four of the women's Tour de France in Liege yesterday, with Demi Vollering taking second in a photo finish to conserve the yellow jersey.

It was a first ever road race victory for the 22-year-old cross-discipline star Pieterse, at her first Tour de France.

The result lifted the Dutch rider to second overall, and gave her the best young rider's white jersey and the polka dot climb jersey.

"To take the win here, in a sprint ahead of Demi, it's really a dream coming true," said Pieterse.

"They were riding for the GS (general classification). I'm just here for the stage. I'm fresh. I just tried to keep a poker face and take it from the sprint.

"I think I went quite early in the end. I've never been here so didn't know where the finish was."

Vollering held onto the leader's yellow jersey she pulled on after Tuesday's time-trial in Rotterdam.

"It's a really good day for me and the whole team," said Vollering.

"My team did a really good job in keeping me safe in the front, it was a really nice day for us.

"It was just not enough at the line. But it's nice to see. Puck is a really talented rider and really deserved this win."

Kasia Niewiadoma of Poland was with the Dutch duo as they entered the final kilometre of a race that started in Valkenburg in the Netherlands, and she launched the dash early with the trio hitting 57kmh after a hilly day.

Defending Tour de France champion Vollering then allowed Pieterse to open a small lead before timing her run to the line slightly wrong.

"I live for this," said Fenix-Deceuninck rider Pieterse. "I worked up so much for the Olympic Games and when you have good legs there you have good legs here."

Stage five takes the Tour into France Thursday with Vollering in yellow and Pieterse second overall at 22sec and Niewiadoma third, another 12 seconds back.

Olympic road race champion Kristen Faulkner of the United States is fourth at 47sec.

The Tour finishes on Sunday with one of cycling's most challenging climbs up Alpe d'Huez. — ***AFP***





QMA drivers attend France training camp

The Qatar Motorsports Academy (QMA) drivers participated in a training camp in Annecy, France as part of a plan developed by the Qatar Motor and Motorcycle Federation. The goal of the camp is to improve the drivers' physical capabilities and develop their focus ahead of the team's upcoming assignments. The training camp that lasted five days was filled with intensive work, which will provide the drivers with valuable experience ahead of the major competitions.

'Every loss is extra motivation': Short memory key to success for Sabalenka

CINCINNATI: Aryna Sabalenka detailed her current tennis philosophy with the three-time Cincinnati Masters semi-finalist revealing she's quick to forget about her losses.

"Every week is a new tournament," the two-time Australian Open champion said as she prepared for a second-round start after a bye at the WTA and ATP Cincinnati Open, the last big test before the August 26 start of the US Open.

"It's good to have a short memory. That helps to keep things moving and working hard and improving."

The third seed reached the semis at the US Midwest venue at the previous two editions as well as in 2018.

She's hoping to soon start improving that record as she comes back from the shoulder injury that forced her to skip Wimbledon.

"Every loss is extra motivation to work hard and improve things -- just to keep going," she said.

"If you're fighting every point and giving all you have in practice and matches you'll have your opportunities. You just have to use them."

Sabalenka said that her tennis also proves to be a welcome contrast to real life. The 25-year-old has been through the wringer over the years, losing her father as well as a former boyfriend who fell to his death from a Miami high-rise this year.

Meanwhile, the WTA number three is determined to improve her Cincinnati record.

"I'm trying to figure out what I need to do to get to the finals. But I don't want to focus on that," she said.

"I want to take things step by step and try to bring my best tennis every time I'm on the court. If I do that, then I will be able to get that semi-final win."


Aryna Sabalenka

Top-eight seeds waited for opening opponents to emerge from first-round matches that filled courts Tuesday.

Ninth-seeded Daria Kastkina opened with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Ekaterina Alexandrova, sending over six aces and breaking four times. The win came as a relief after first-round losses in Washington and last week in Toronto.

Number 15 Marta Kostyuk earned a 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 trip to the second round over Belgian Elise Mertens after nearly two and a half hours and a dozen double-faults.

Karolina Pliskova, tournament winner eight years ago, began her WTA campaign 7-6 (7/2), 7-6 (7/3) over Bulgarian Viktorija Tomova while France's Varvara Gracheva put out Australian Ajla Tomljanovic 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 (7/5).

Wimbledon quarter-finalist Lulu Sun, who had to qualify into the field, reached the second round over Czech Linda Noskova 6-4, 7-6 (7/4).

Shelton beats Opelka

In men's play, 12th seed Ben Shelton won a self-described "bot v bot" battle of serving as he held off returning Reilly Opelka 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (7/3).

The towering Opelka, who missed two years with injury and is only now getting back to the tour, bombed 19 aces in his losing effort against his American compatriot.

Shelton said he trained as best he could for the match by facing big serves from his former ATP player father Bryan.

Shelton booked the second round on the second of four match points with a leaping return winner.

He ended with 20 winners while his opponent hit 31 in the 97-minute contest. American Alex Michelsen advanced over Dutchman Tallon Griekspoor 6-1, 5-7, 6-2.

China's Zhang Zhizhen beat Giovanni Mpetishi Perricard of France 6-3, 7-6 (7/4). Frances Tiafoe earned a home-soil win, beating Spain's Alejandro Davidovich Fokina 6-3, 7-6 (8/6). — *AFP*

beIN extends La Liga broadcast rights in MENA and APAC

THE PENINSULA

DOHA: beIN Media Group ('beIN'), has signed a deal extending its La Liga broadcast rights, which will see the Group's flagship sports channel, beIN Sports, remain the home of Spanish football in 34 markets across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and Asia-Pacific (APAC) until the end of the 2027-28 season and 2026-27 season respectively.

beIN has held the rights to La Liga since 2003 in MENA and 2015 in APAC. The new campaign will see Spain's top league continue to be broadcast exclusively on beIN Sports for 16 consecutive seasons across 23 MENA markets. The networkwill continue to have rights to all 380 league games and will see its media rights agreement expanded to bring La Liga back to beIN in Australia and New Zealand.

Group CEO of beIN Media Group Yousef Al Obaidly said: "We are delighted to extend our contract with La Liga with two significant multi-year deals across 34 countries. As long-term, committed partners of La Liga, we are proud to help Spanish football grow worldwide through our world-class broadcasting and our significant and dependable investment. This major deal is further testament to beIN's considered and consistent strategy to deliver growth as one of the leading sports, entertainment and media groups in the world."

La Liga President Javier Tebas, stated: "At La Liga we always look for best-in-class partners to deliver Spanish football to fans everywhere. Our relationship with beIN has been essential for us in order to ensure people in MENA and APAC regions to be able to enjoy a unique competition as La Liga to the fullest. We are sure that the next seasons are going to be unparalleled ones for our fans across the region."

Starting on August 15 and expected to feature a full round of 10 matches, some of the key stories ahead of the new season will be how quickly Real Madrid's superstar new signing Kylian Mbappe can settle, whether FC Barcelona's new German coach Hansi Flick can quickly influence his new club's style of play, and if Girona can push on now after qualifying for the UEFA Champions League for the first time in the club's 93-year history.

The exclusive deal covers the following countries across MENA and APAC: Algeria, Bahrain, Chad, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen, Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Philippines, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Australia, and New Zealand. beIN will also co-share LALIGA broadcast rights in Iraq with the regional platform 1001.

An agreement beyond broadcasting which tackles audiovisual fraud

Audiovisual fraud is a scourge for the development of the audiovisual industry and the sports ecosystem, with a highly damaging impact on clubs, organisations, and broadcasters.

Thus, La Liga and beIN have jointly undertaken initiatives to combat audiovisual fraud, such as legal actions in Morocco and Bahrain aimed at blocking illegal streaming websites in the former and dismantling an illegal IPTV service in the latter. As well, periodic administrative blockades have been taken jointly with other right holders in Indonesia and Malaysia.

Similarly, there is constant communication between both entities to report all cases in the HORECA channel (hotels, restaurants and cafeterias) in Spain where decoders with contracts from other countries are identified, to proceed with their deactivation.

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