Pliskova keen to find rhythm at Qatar Total Open

In-form Sabalenka bids for rare title double in Doha

Only Anastasia Myskina and Victoria Azarenka have managed a successful title defence in the Qatar capital.
Ostapenko, Kerber, Muguruza advance
inside straight sets

By Sports Reporter

Former world No.1 Ashleigh Barty will fight for her place in the quarterfinals of the Qatar Open against No. 2 Karolina Pliskova tomorrow. Barty, who has raced back from a left-ankle injury to face the Czech star, is determined to redeem her form from the Australian Open.

Defending champion Sofia Kenin, who was a 2020 semi-finalist at the Qatar Open, said: “I’m really looking forward to playing against Barty. It’s going to be an amazing match. I hope I can come out on top.”

Barty, who lost to Kenin in the final of the Vienna Open earlier this year, said: “I’m really excited to play against her. She’s a great player and I know what to expect from her. It’s going to be a tough match, but I’m really looking forward to it.”

Muguruza, who won the 2018 Roland Garros, is looking to reach her 10th straight Grand Slam quarter-final. She faces No. 20 seed Ostapenko in the last-16.

Ostapenko, who lost to Barty in the 2018 French Open final, said: “It’s going to be a tough match. I’m really looking forward to it.”

In the other quarter-final, Pliskova faces No. 24 seed Bencic. Pliskova, who won the 2019 Stuttgart Open, said: “I’m really looking forward to playing against Bencic. She’s a great player and I know what to expect from her.”

Bencic, who lost to Pliskova in the semi-finals of the 2019 WTA Finals, said: “I’m really looking forward to playing against Pliskova. She’s a great player and I know what to expect from her.”

The match between Kenin and Barty should be one of the highlights of the tournament. Kenin, who lost to Barty in the final of the 2020 Australian Open, said: “I’m really looking forward to playing against Barty. It’s going to be an amazing match. I hope I can come out on top.”

Barty, who won the 2020 US Open, said: “I’m really excited to play against Kenin. She’s a great player and I know what to expect from her. It’s going to be a tough match, but I’m really looking forward to it.”
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Duhail expect ‘difficult’ match against Al Shamal

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omer Barcelona president Josep Bartomeu is arrested
Catalan police raid offices of top La Liga club in connection with ‘BarcaGate’

**SPOTLIGHT**

Former Barcelona president Josep Bartomeu was arrested yesterday after Catalan police raided the club’s offices on charges of financial corruption.

A regional police spokeswoman confirmed several arrests had been made following an investigation by the fixa’s financial crime unit over claims of money laundering and irregular payments to players.

Josep Bartomeu, the club’s president until last year, was arrested outside his home in Barcelona today. His lawyer said he was not contacted by police before the raid.

Bartomeu has faced several investigations into financial irregularities during his time in charge, including allegations of misusing club funds to pay off debts and rigging the transfer market.

The arrest is the latest blow for a club that is struggling to recover from its financial struggles and poor performance on the pitch.

**FOCUS**

Chinese media urge change after football champions’ financial collapse

The “docketing” collapse for Chinese football champions Shanghai SIPG has brought about a wave of criticism in the country. State media and fans alike have called for the club’s restructuring.

A Shanghai SIPG statement last month said it had stopped paying player salaries and closed the club’s training base. The club’s debt is estimated to be over 2 billion yuan ($270 million).

The club’s financial problems have been well-documented, but the latest news has renewed calls for reform in Chinese football.

**TOPIC**

Dejan channels Zlatan as he eyes Asia goal scoring mark

Reuters

Dejan Savicevic has been in top form for FC Seoul this season.

To a close, the 40-year-old has scored once in all but one leading goal scorer in the continent’s most competitive league.

Known simply as Dejan, the Montenegrin striker has scored 14 goals so far for the South Korean club.

The honorable mention is being praised for his consistency and strength as he eyes the top of the standings.

“I feel like I’m doing something 

The Super League gained a new champion last year, with Shanghai SIPG winning the title. The 16-team league has been the focal point of China’s football league system for the past decade.

However, the league has been beset by financial problems in recent years, with several clubs struggling to find sustainable funding.

The Chinese Football Association recently announced plans to reform the league, including stricter financial regulations and a focus on developing young talent.

**REACTION**

Simeone pleased as benched Joao Felix makes ‘big impact’

**Bottomline**

Moore named Wednesday boss after leaving Doncaster

London: Championship strugglers Sheffield Wednesday have appointed Darren Moore as their new manager on a short-term deal.

The former West Bromwich Albion and Leeds United boss has signed a contract until the end of the season.

Moore, who was previously the Owls’ caretaker boss, said: “It’s a fantastic opportunity and I’m really looking forward to the challenge.”

It’s the third time in three matches and

The game will take place at the Blades’ home ground, Bramall Lane, on Sunday.

Moore’s new role will see him replace Chris Wilder, who was sacked last week after a run of one win in their previous six league games.

Butler had replaced Moore as interim boss after the Italian’s departure.

He said: “Moore now joins the Owls with

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The Thai rights holder of Shanghai SIPG, the conglomerate Suning, was “sorry to hear” about Jiangsu’s problems. The Chinese football club has now settled, state-run Xinhua said that 16 teams across three tiers of Chinese professional football folded in 2020.

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Patrick Kane's 400th career goal came on the third period against the Detroit Red Wings on Sunday at the United Center in Chicago. Kane became the fourth player in history to hit 400 goals after scoring his 2-0 marker at 5:11 into the third period and the best Chicago Blackhawk to do so in 13 years.

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Kane reached 400 as Blackhawks rout Red Wings

The end of the Warriors’ three-game winning run was no April Fool’s prank. It ended with a 13-2 victory over the Warriors on Friday at Philadelphia’s Wells Fargo Center, where guard Jayson Tatum scored 28 of his 38 points in the second half.

The Lakers, winners of 14 of their last 16 games, saw the end of their winning streak. The Lakers were only six points ahead when James capped an over/under victory over the Warriors in the second half.

The Lakers weren’t even the most difficult opponent of the night. That belonged to the Memphis Grizzlies, who trounced the Lakers on Friday in Boston.

The Lakers’ win was an exact repeat of the night. The Grizzlies were 10 points ahead when the Lakers took the lead for the final time.

The Lakers were 13 points ahead when the Grizzlies took the lead against the Lakers for the first time.

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Collin Morikawa of the United States celebrates with the Gene Sarazen Cup during the trophy ceremony after winning the final round of the World Golf Championships-Mexico Championship at Mexico City Golf Club on February 28, 2021 in Mexico City, Mexico.

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I'm really excited that the 1,500m free is in the Olympics for the first time for women and that there's parity in the schedule between the men's and women's categories.
99 athletes for FINA marathon swim opener in Doha

Event, which will be staged on March 13, will be held under strict Covid-19 protocols

By Sports Reporter

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The water temperature remains unbeaten in Bordeaux

The meeting discussed a number of important topics related to the future of volleyball in Qatar.

The agenda of the General Assembly included the approval of the minutes of the previous meeting, approval of reports of past activities and future projects, and approval of the final account of the last fiscal year.

The meeting, which was chaired by President of Qatar Volleyball Association Mohammed Al-Ghannam, discussed the meeting's findings, the future plans of the organization, and the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2021-2024.

The assembly also approved the appointment of the new administrative and executive committee for the next four years.

The General Assembly was chaired by QFA President Ali Al-Shehhi and attended by representatives from QFAs member clubs and associations.

The meeting was held at the Qatar Volleyball Association headquarters in Doha.

The assembly was attended by representatives from QFAs member clubs and associations, including Ali Al-Shehhi, President of QFAs, and Ali Al-Khater, Vice-President of QFAs.

The assembly discussed the organization's future plans, including the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2021-2024, and approved the appointment of the new administrative and executive committee for the next four years.

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European qualifiers will pose a new challenge for players, says Qatar coach Sanchez

The Qatar Football Association’s disciplinary committee decided to ban Al Duhail SC player Sultan al-Buraik for two matches after he was sent off against Al Gharafa during the current sports season, and the list will include between 22 and 30 players to play the European qualifiers.

Al Shaqab’s Divertissement remains unbeaten in Bordeaux

The Qatar Football Association’s disciplinary committee decided to ban Al Duhail SC player Sultan al-Buraik for two matches after he was sent off against Al Gharafa during the current sports season, and the list will include between 22 and 30 players to play the European qualifiers.

The list will include around 200 players who have been given good levels and demonstrated their ability to represent the country at QFA level during the current season.

The list of players will be updated every time the QFA would decide to change it.

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