Maddie Keys of the US made a succes-
sive run to the WTA at the Qatar Ti-
net Open yesterday, defeating Elina Svito-
lina of Ukraine to reach the final 2-1.

Keys impressed in her first match since 2020
Doha. Her best result in Doha was in the last
round of qualifying at the 2017 Qatar Open.

Keys claimed the one-set lead
she was unable to serve out the
lead in the opening set. Keys
helped her build an early 3-0
lead with six unforced errors and
ever, against Keys, she was un-
able to serve out her
advantage in the second set.
Earlier yesterday, qualifi ers
Pavlyuchenkova and Jessica Peg-
ula proved the value of match play
against Bencic.

Svitolina turned pro in 2010 and since
then her best result has been in the last
round of the Premier 5-level tournaments in
Doha. This year she is the top seed and
favourites to win the event.

For Keys, the last time she
reached the Qatar T o-
finals, the American was
beaten by
Raina in the final.

Keys coolly served out the match
break, this time at love, for 5-1.

Keys was disappointed with herself but hoping to
keep the momentum going to-
morrow. “It was really happy with how I
came out and played today,” Keys said in her post-match press conference. “It’s a little bit sur-
prising with myself but hoping to keep the momentum go-
ing tomorrow.”

Svitolina has made it past the first round in 2017, but she has never reached the fi nal
of any Premier 5-level tournaments in
Doha.

Pavlyuchenkova defeated
Elina Svitolina 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 in the semi-
ﬁ nal.

Svitolina said yesterday.

Talking about Doha conditions
she said: “I really like to play here in
Doha. This year is a bit different be-
cause I think the surface is a bit dif-
ferent because they made it for the Aus-
"I’m a little bit surprised with myself but hoping to keep the momentum going tomorrow.”

USA’s Keys outclasses Bencic, Jabeur sails past Blinkova

10-6 in the opening round in Doha.
In her ﬁ rst match since 2020
Bencic — a gap of nine
months — Keys came out of the to-
in a battle between Top 10
players. The 2017 US Open ﬁ nal-
list needed just one hour to start
her season with a victory in the
 opener, which took her no-
edge against Bencic.

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Robin Haase and claim his first top-level title in Rotterdam
Daniil Medvedev advanced to the final of the Rotterdam Open to Rotterdam top seed Stefanos Tsitsipas was taking on Egor Gerasimov in the third round thanks to a 7-6 (8/1), 6-3 win over seed Andrey Rublev. Rublev strolled into the next round in straight sets after a 7-6 (9/7), 6-3 victory over Belarussian Ilya Ivashka.

Next up, Tsitsipas will face France’s Ugo Humbert in the semi-finals. The Greek star was a comfortable 6-0, 6-2 winner against South African Kevin Anderson, while Humbert recovered from a 1-4 deficit in the second set to defeat Ukrainian Sergiy Stakhovsky 6-3, 7-5.

Rublev has not dropped a set in Rotterdam and his form has been impressive this year, winning four of his six tournaments so far.

On Monday, Andy Murray fought back from a set down to defeat home hope Robin Haase in straight sets 6-4, 6-4 to advance to the third round of the Rotterdam ATP tournament yesterday.

But the three-time Grand Slam champion battled back to win 2-6, 7-5, 6-3 and took his last-16 meeting with Haase into a decider.

"I didn’t feel too bad the whole night," said 2014 Rotterdam winner Murray, who last won an ATP match at the US Open last September. "I felt fighting and it’s really a mental victory. My teammates definitely need to improve. Fortunately I have a day to recover to be fresh through to the third round." Murray, who like Haase is playing on a wildcard, looked to be starting to fall out of the Rotterdam top seed but showed his class to force through the tie-break to decide a winner.

Raonic seizes return to win in Rotterdam
Canada’s Milos Raonic has returned to his image after battling with back issues to win in Rotterdam.

The 24-year-old was up against fellow Canadian Vasek Pospisil in the second round and dropped a service break in the first set but returned to win the second 6-2, 6-1.

Raonic is looking to win his first ATP title after losing in the quarter-finals of the 2015 Rotterdam Open to Robin Soderling.

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Al Duhail and Rayyan book spots in Amir Cup semis

Oulunga, al-Ahraq on target for Duhail; Al Sadd coach Xavi confident ahead of match against Al Gharafa

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Al Duhail booked their spot in the Amir Cup semi-finals with a 2-0 victory over Al Kharaitiyat, while Rayyan edged out Al Kharaitiyat 2-0, thanks to a brace by their Ivorian striker Yohann Boli.

### Al Duhail vs. Al Kharaitiyat

**STORY:**

Al Duhail player Bassem al-Rawi (L) of Al Duhail congratulates Abdulla al-Ahraq (second from left) after he scored the second goal for his team yesterday. At right, Al Rayyan's Ivorian striker Yohann Boli reacts after scoring against Al Kharaitiyat.

**FOCUS:**

Former Barca chief Bartomeu released day after arrest

Former FC Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu was released from pre-trial detention in Barcelona yesterday after a judge decided to release him on bail.

Bartomeu's arrest on Monday in what police call “an investigation into alleged management and business corruption” was expected to last for two weeks.

### Everton enjoy rare home win as Richardson sinks Saints

**BOTTOMLINE**

**FOOTBALL**

Everton had the better of the few chances as they claimed a first home victory in the English Premier League on Monday night.

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### Everton had a point to prove against Saints

**FOOTBALL**

Everton's Brazilian striker Richarlison (C) celebrates scoring against Southampton in the English Premier League on Monday night.

### Everton enjoy rare home win as Richardson sinks Saints

**FOOTBALL**

Everton found plenty of space from three-touch-to-the-box runs, and Brazilian forward Richarlison was the first to take advantage of it. His pinpoint accurate balls from the left-hand side of the box in the opening minutes of the first half were unlucky for the Saints.

### Everton had a point to prove against Saints

**FOOTBALL**

Everton's Brazilian striker Richarlison scores against Southampton in the English Premier League on Monday night.
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Johnson backs UK bid for 2030 World Cup

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak yesterday launched a bid to host the 2030 FIFA World Cup, while the country added they would also be willing to host extra Euro 2024 matches if required."

The Prime Minister unveiled the plan at the Great Hall at Lancaster House in London, where he was joined by Football Association chief executive Richard Masters and the chair of UK2030, Lord Coe.

Speaking at the launch event, Mr Sunak said: "Today we are making our bid for football's greatest prize, the World Cup."

He added: "The UK is home to some of the greatest football clubs and footballers in history."

Mr Sunak said the UK has the "right geography, the right infrastructure and the right people" to host the event.

He told the assembled guests: "This is an opportunity not just for our country but for the wider world."

The Prime Minister said: "We will continue to work with the FA to ensure the best possible hosting experience for fans and players and that the tournament is delivered in the spirit of unity and togetherness."
Maple Leafs beat Oilers 3-0

Zion dominant as Pelicans ups Jazz, Sixers bounce-back

NBA

Zion Williamson produced a dominant performance for the New Orleans Pelicans, scoring 31 points and grabbing 10 rebounds as they defeated the Utah Jazz.

Utah had built an early lead in the second quarter, but the Pelicans stormed back in the second half, with Zion Williamson scoring 19 of his points in the final 20 minutes. The Jazz struggled to keep up with the Pelicans' offense, which was led by Williamson's scoring.

In other games, the Denver Nuggets defeated the Brooklyn Nets, 130-114, while the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Houston Rockets, 118-114.

Chief's hopeful Mahomes is ready by June

Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes was cleared to return from a knee injury, according to reports.

Mahomes, who injured his knee in a game against the Baltimore Ravens in January, had been on the Chiefs' non-active list since April 12.

The Chiefs have not yet announced a specific date for Mahomes' return to playing action. However, head coach Andy Reid said last week that Mahomes was making good progress and could be available for the team's upcoming minicamp.

The Chiefs have a bye week on Sunday, and then play the Denver Broncos on Sunday, June 6. Mahomes could potentially make his return in that game.

Maple Leafs' Jack Campbell stops 30 shots on Oilers

The Maple Leafs defeated the Edmonton Oilers 3-0 Monday night at Scotiabank Arena.

Darnell Nurse and Maple Leafs' Zach Bogosian each had a goal and an assist. Auston Matthews also had an assist for the Leafs, while Connor McDavid scored for the Oilers.

In the first period, the Leafs took the lead on a power-play goal by Bogosian, who redirected a shot from the slot for his third goal of the season.

In the second period, Matthews made it 2-0 at 10:20 with a power-play goal at 10:20, taking a slap shot from the point that somehow wound up behind Koskinen's pads.

The Leafs went 0-3 on the power play while the Maple Leafs are 0-6.

Vegas Golden Knights' Marc-Andre Fleury made 26 saves to beat the Chicago Blackhawks 3-0 at T-Mobile Arena on Monday night.

Fleury, who has dominated the league for a decade, showed no signs of slowing down as he faced off against the Blackhawks for the first time.

The win was Fleury's 419th in the NHL, tying him with Ed Belfour for the most wins in league history.

The Golden Knights took a 2-0 lead in the first period on goals from Paul Stastny and Alex Tuch, who scored his 15th goal of the season.

In the second period, Vegas increased its lead to 3-0 on a power-play goal by Jonathan Marchessault, who scored his 12th goal of the season.

The Golden Knights lead the league in power-play goals with 30, and the win was Fleury's 28th of the season, tying him with Belfour for most wins in a single season.

The win also capped off a successful road trip for the Golden Knights, who are now 8-2-1 in their last 11 games.

Maple Leafs centre Auston Matthews finished with two goals and an assist, leading the league in goals with 31 and points with 65.

The win was the Maple Leafs' third in a row and their sixth in their last seven games.

Matthews, who is on pace to break the Maple Leafs' record for goals in a season, scored his second goal of the game in the third period, a power-play goal at 13:06 of the frame.

The win also extended the Maple Leafs' winning streak to six games, tying a season-high.

The Maple Leafs are now 37-23-7 on the season and have moved into second place in the Eastern Conference, one point ahead of the New York Rangers.

The loss was the ninth in 10 games for the Oilers, who are now 35-36-13 on the season and have fallen to seventh place in the Western Conference.
**MOTORSPORT**

**Mercedes retain black livery as they unveil Hamilton and Bottas’ new F1 car**

I’ve achieved most of the stuff that I have wanted to achieve up until this point. I think we’re living in quite an unusual period of time and I just wanted one year...

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Lewis Hamilton made defending on season opener a priority, not about his future beyond 2021, revealing how the car that could power him to a record eighth Formula One title at the end of the month.

The 36-year-old Briton has a contract until the end of 2021, but racing speculation about what happens after that is a talking point in the fortunate position where I’ve achieved most of the stuff that I have wanted to achieve up until this point,” he said, as he and team-mate Valtteri Bottas faced the media in London. “So there has really naturally to plan for that ahead.

“I think we’re living in an unusual period of time and life and I just wanted one year, then keep adding it one if we can.”

The W02 retains the black livery introduced last year to reinvigorate the team’s commitment to improving diversity, with members of both genders and their morals, as calls athletes to choose between their

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The Mercedes-AMG F1 W12 E Performance builds on the solid foundation of the 2020 car. “So trust me, he will do the same for it,” said Wolff in a Mercedes statement to cover the launch of the new W12 car.

“Managing the yard in the first few races will be a challenge and therefore, a new goal,” said Wolff in a Mercedes statement to cover the launch of the new W12 car.

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**SKINNING**

Shiffrin says rights concerns present Olympic dilemma

“My biggest fear is that we have new challenges which have new constraints imposed to make the sport more productive and efficient,” said Albon.

‘We are determined to find ways of working so that we can mitigate the effect of this handicap’

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**FOCUS**

**Alonso does not look or drive like a 39-year-old: Ocon**

The double world champion, who has won more World titles (three) than any other American male, suggested that his sports media, because of the sport’s nature.

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The Mercedes Formula One team, which launched its car for the 2021 season with their Grand Prix on March 28, has been going the last several years with the goal of at least 25 percent of new starters coming from under-represented groups.

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**Bottas’ new F1 car**

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FAHREED YOUSUF

**FOURTH TEST**

**Prepare for another spin fest, India's Rahane tells England**

We are concentrating on what we have to do. When we tour we never complain.

India lost to England in the fourth Test by an innings and 251 runs on Sunday and said Sunday that the hosts had a lot of experience in the two-day match that ended in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

Rahane, 32, felt it was the pink ball, which the teams are playing with for the first time in a Test match, and the conditions which suited the spinners.

"That's actually the goal I'm setting for myself," he said. "I want to win the series, I want to win the T20 World Cup and I want to win the T20I World Cup."

The 41-year-old was named captain of the Pakistan team for the England tour in March following the retirement of Sarfaraz Ahmed.

"I want to win the series, but the bigger goal is the T20 World Cup," he added. "The Pakistan team is strong in all departments and we have a good chance of winning the T20 World Cup."

Despite skipping the third Test due to a back injury, Rahane said he would be available for the fourth Test which starts in Antigua today.

"I want to stay fit and healthy and I want to play in the fourth Test," he said. "I want to be fit and I want to play in the fourth Test."
Super Grand Prix at the GC Prague, one of the most prestigious international competitions in the world, will see some of the most dominant names on the opening leg of the LGCT season opener. Competing at the Prague was a number of international riders, including top names in the world of equestrian sports. It also reflects a commitment to Qatar’s position as a destination of choice for all international competitions, as well as a testament to the country’s role in the development of equestrian sports. The LGCT is a prestigious global event that has become a cornerstone of the equestrian calendar, hosting some of the finest equestrian facilities such as Al Shaqab, one of the finest equestrian facilities in the world, which will host the Longines Global Champions Tour and Commercial Bank Qatar’s National Vision 2030 and the FEI has cancelled events in Europe due to the ongoing pandemic and the coronavirus has meant it was forced to cancel the LGCT. Shaqab, one of the finest equestrian facilities in the world, with its world-class facilities and unique atmosphere, is especially noteworthy during a pandemic such as Covid-19, which has affected sporting events around the world. We also have the news that the FEI has cancelled events in Europe due to the coronavirus and we are very fortunate to be able to go ahead with our events in Qatar at this time.

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