FOOTBALL

Amir Cup winners Al Duhail, Al Gharafa and Al Rayyan are the other Qatar clubs at the continental event

By Sports Reporter

AFC Champions League (AFC CL), which kicks off this week, is bound to have a great impact on the Gulf football scene as the three Qatari clubs, Al Sadd, Al Duhail and Al Gharafa, will be looking to lead their nation to unprecedented glories.

The AFC CL, which features 12 clubs from 11 countries, has been a source of pride for Gulf football for years. This year, the Gulf countries are represented by three clubs, a significant increase from previous years.

Al Sadd, who won the competition last year, will be looking to repeat their success. The club has a strong squad and a proven track record in the competition.

Al Duhail, on the other hand, are making their debut in the AFC CL. The club has been on an upward trajectory in recent years and has been a force to be reckoned with in Gulf football.

Al Gharafa, who won the Amir Cup last year, will also be aiming to make a mark in the AFC CL. The club has a strong defense and a good squad and is expected to cause upsets in the competition.

The AFC CL is a 12-team competition and the Gulf countries arerepresented by three clubs, a significant increase from previous years. The competition is a chance for Gulf football to showcase its talent on the world stage.

Al Sadd, Al Duhail and Al Gharafa, who have been performing well in domestic competitions, will be looking to make a mark in the AFC CL. The three clubs have a strong fan following in Qatar and are expected to draw large crowds for their matches.

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South Africa win as spinner Maharaj picks up 7 wickets

Bangladesh batted out for a paltry 53 on the fifth and final day of the first Test

FIRST TEST

South Africa's Keshav Maharaj celebrates after the dismissal of Bangladesh's Mustafizur Rahim during the first Test at the Kingsmead Stadium in Durban yesterday. (AFP)

Afghans were expected to dominate the world. But they have been dominated. A lot of the blame for this has been placed on the Afghans, particularly the selectors, because they have not been able to provide the right environment for the players.

But this team is very different. They have been given the right environment and they have been able to perform well. They have shown that they can compete with the best teams in the world.

The batting of the Afghans has been a strong point. They have been able to score runs consistently and they have been able to put up big totals. The bowling has been a weak point, but the Afghans have been able to take wickets consistently and they have been able to contain the opposition.

This team has shown that it can compete with the best teams in the world. They have shown that they can win matches and they have shown that they can compete in the Test cricket. They have shown that they are a force to be reckoned with.

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AQP warns of stricter action for misconduct

Aussie maverick Kyrgios was fined $60,000 for a series of angry outbursts at the Indian Wells

The QHotels Phoenix Chargers were crowned Gulf Premier League champions after their win over QFM Stars in the final at the Asian Town International Cricket Stadium. The Gulf Premier League is the premier cricket league of Gulf Arab States, a mainstay of sport within the region. The championship was organized by the Asian Town International Cricket Stadium. The QHotels Phoenix Chargers, an experienced and dedicated team, emerged victorious in the season-long league coupled with 9 matches to the Gaflar Premier League, a leading employee cricket league of Galfar Al Misnad. The championship was adjudicated by Kumar D'Souza, Captain of the Gaflar Premier League and Emirati cricket legend Shoaib Malik. The QHotels Phoenix Chargers defeated the QFM Stars in the final with a convincing score of 60 runs, securing their victory and cementing their place as champions. The match was filled with high tension and excitement, as both teams displayed their skills and strategies. The QHotels Phoenix Chargers' victory was a testament to their hard work, dedication, and teamwork, earning them the admiration and respect of the cricket community. The championship was held at the Asian Town International Cricket Stadium, a popular venue for cricket events in the region. The QHotels Phoenix Chargers' achievement in this championship reflects the growth and development of cricket in the Gulf Arab States. The Indian Wells

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Australia set to host 2025 World Cup

Australia, which is currently the world number one in Test cricket, has been awarded the hosting rights for the 2025 World Cup. The announcement was made on the same day that Australia celebrate their 100-year anniversary of Test cricket. The 2025 World Cup will be the 13th edition of the tournament and will be held in Australia from March 29 to May 20. The event will feature 16 teams, including eight from each of the two major cricketing regions of the world and eight from the smaller countries. The tournament will be held across 20 venues in Australia, with the final being played at the Sydney Cricket Ground. The announcement was made on the same day that Australia celebrate their 100-year anniversary of Test cricket. The 2025 World Cup will be the 13th edition of the tournament and will be held in Australia from March 29 to May 20. The event will feature 16 teams, including eight from each of the two major cricketing regions of the world and eight from the smaller countries. 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Mbappe mum on PSG future after sparkling show against Lorient

‘I haven’t taken my decision, I’m thinking it over, there are new elements’

K ep Siya Mbappe said he has still not decided on his future amid reports he is ready to quit Paris Saint-Germain at the end of the season. Mbappe was the match winner with a hat-trick as PSG edged past Lorient to move within two points of the title race.

The 23-year-old forward netted in the 10th, 33rd and 90th minutes to take PSG’s tally to 17, one behind Monaco’s Wissam Ben Yedder. The French champions have four games left after the Ligue 1 fixture.

English Premier League: Newcastle’s 101-point record in question

Newcastle United’s magical run in the Premier League is under threat after Manchester United knocked them off the top of the table on Monday. Newcastle had become the first team in the history of the English top-flight to accumulate 101 points in a 38-game season.

Pedri masterclass sees off Sevilla and puts Barcelona top

O usmane Dembele delivered a stunning performance in midfield to see off Ferencvaros and put Barcelona top of Group C in the Europa League on Thursday. A 2-0 win in Budapest had put Barcelona on six points from their three group games, a point clear of PSV Eindhoven and two clear of Ferencvaros.

Barcelona are in the driving seat to qualify for the knockout stage, but the group is far from decided. The Catalan club now face a tricky trip to Slavia Prague on Wednesday, while Ferencvaros host Eindhoven.

A mong the goalscorers for Barcelona was Pedri, who produced a breathtaking display against Ferencvaros to take his tally to seven goals and 14 assists in all competitions this season.

Pedri’s brilliance against Ferencvaros sparked a wave of comparisons with Brazilian icon Ronaldinho. The 19-year-old, who joined Barcelona from Las Palmas in a €15 million deal in 2019, has been tipped as the next big thing in world football.

Barcelona coachXavi Hernandez, however, has played down suggestions that Pedri could be the next Ronaldinho.

Pedri proved the difference with a goal in the 10th minute after a superb backheel from Ousmane Dembele. He then completed his hat-trick with a stunning performance in midfield to see off Ferencvaros and put Barcelona top of Group C in the Europa League on Thursday.

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