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TENNIS | Page 3

Sinner advances amid Cincinnati power-failure chaos



FOOTBALL | Page 4

PSG sign Ukrainian defender Illia Zabarnyi from Bournemouth



Wednesday, August 13, 2025
Safar 19, 1447 AH

GULF TIMES
SPORT



CRICKET

Brevis smashes record ton as South Africa level T20 series

Page 2

AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE ELITE

Qatar's Duhail rally to beat Iranian club Sepahan 3-2

BAMBA, BOULBINA AND PIATEK SCORED FOR THE HOME SIDE IN THE PRELIMINARY STAGE MATCH

Agencies
Doha

Qatar Stars League (QSL) side Al Duhail overturned an early deficit to hand Sepahan FC a 3-2 defeat in the AFC Champions League Elite 2025/26 preliminary stage at the Khalifa International Stadium yesterday.

Amin Hazbavi gave the side from Iran a third minute lead but goals from Ibrahima Bamba, Adil Boulbina and Krzysztof Piatek by the 33rd minute saw Djamel Belmadi's outfit secure victory. Milad Zakipour scored a late consolation for Sepahan.

The result means Al Duhail will be one of the 12 clubs participating in the league phase of the AFC Champions League Elite from West Asia, with the draw due to take place in Kuala Lumpur on Friday.

Al Duhail's success came despite Sepahan taking the lead with a little over two minutes on the clock, Arya Yousefi's long throw towards the six-yard box slipping through the Al Duhail defence to allow defender Hazbavi to step forward and coolly side-foot home.

The Iranian side's advantage was to last only nine minutes, however, as Bamba charged into the Sepahan penalty area to meet Benjamin Bourigeaud's corner and power his header into the top corner.

By the 24th minute Al Duhail had gone in front through a moment of exceptional skill from Boulbina, who pulled down Tuta's pass from deep with his first touch and then smashed his shot past Seyed Hossein Hosseini via the underside of the crossbar with his second.

The Qataris side doubled their lead 12 minutes before the break as Piatek ruthlessly punished a mistake by Ehsan Hajisafi, intercepting the midfielder's pass to race in on goal and give Hosseini little chance with a thumping strike.

Bourigeaud saw his shot tipped onto the crossbar by Hosseini with four minutes left in the half and Boulbina dragged his attempt wide at the end of a rapid-fire break as Al Duhail's dominance continued until the break.

Al Duhail goalkeeper Salah Zakaria made a flying save to keep out Kaveh Rezaei's dipping free kick in the 51st minute as Sepahan sought to claw their way back into the game, with the Qatari goalkeeper responding again seven minutes later to deny Arash Rezavand.

Hajisfai was unable to curl his left-foot effort inside Zakaria's right post with 15 minutes remaining but, while Zakipour bundled the ball over the line from close range in the third minute of injury time, Al Duhail held on to progress.



Al Duhail's Ibrahima Bamba celebrates after scoring against Sepahan in their AFC Champions League Elite preliminary stage match at the Khalifa International Stadium in Doha yesterday.



Al Duhail fans celebrate their team's victory at the Khalifa International Stadium yesterday.



Al Duhail's Krzysztof Piatek scored the third goal of his side.

UEFA SUPER CUP

PSG leave Donnarumma out of squad amid exit rumours

Agencies
Udine, Italy

Paris St Germain have left goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma out of their squad for today's UEFA Super Cup clash with Tottenham Hotspur, amid media reports linking the Italy international with a move away from the French side.

Donnarumma was PSG's first-choice keeper and played a key role as they won the Ligue 1 and the Champions League last season.

The 26-year-old has won the French top-flight three times since joining from AC Milan in 2021.

However, French media reports said Donnarumma, whose contract with PSG ends next year, may be on his way out this summer. PSG also signed Lucas Chevalier from Lille, who was named Ligue 1's goalkeeper of the year last season.

Chevalier, Matvey Safonov and Renato Marin were the three keepers named in the squad yesterday for the match against Europa League champions Spurs.

Meanwhile, Tottenham manager Thomas Frank said yesterday he is expecting his team to be "incredibly competitive" in his first game in charge against Paris Saint-Germain in the UEFA Super Cup.

The former Brentford boss could not have been given a tougher opening match in the Spurs dug-out, facing a PSG side who romped to their maiden Champions League title with a 5-0 thumping of Inter Milan in May.

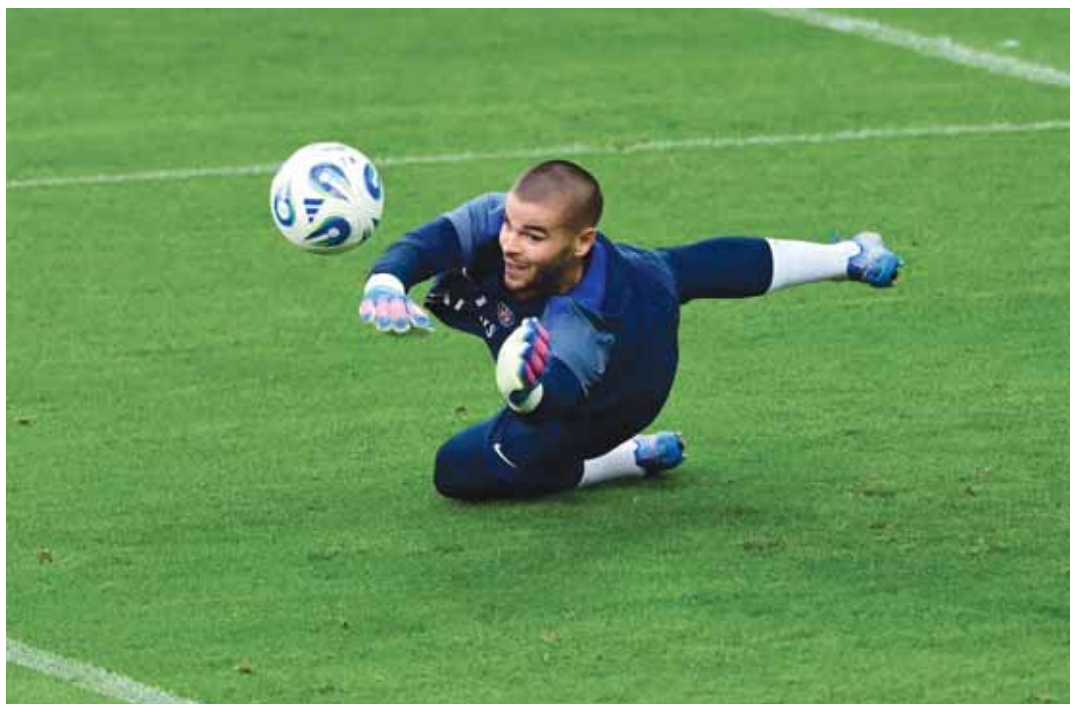
"I am convinced we will be incredibly competitive tomorrow," Frank told reporters ahead of today's game in Udine.

"Paris are, of course, further down the line in terms of their peak performance, but we are ready for the match...

"For everyone involved in Tottenham it's a massive game, a big challenge and a great opportunity. We will definitely embrace it and give everything. We are playing an ok team, but we are ready for it."

Tottenham ended a 17-year wait for a major trophy with victory over Manchester United in last season's Europa League final.

But it was not enough to save then-coach Ange Postecoglou from the sack after they stumbled to a 17th-placed finish in the Premier League.



PSG's goalkeeper Lucas Chevalier dives to stop the ball during a training session at Friuli stadium in Udine yesterday, on the eve of the 2025 UEFA Super Cup final match against Tottenham Hotspur. *(AFP)*

Dane Frank was brought in with the job to achieve some consistency, after taking Brentford to a top-10 finish in the Premier League in his seventh campaign at the helm.

"Thomas Frank has come in and brought a lot of energy," said experienced defender Ben Davies.

"The lads are really enjoying working under him, and it's very exciting. We're hoping the work we've put in so far will pay dividends tomorrow night."

It will be Spurs' first outing since forward Son Heung-min's departure for LAFC in the United States, while James Maddison is also absent after suffering a serious knee injury during a pre-season friendly.

"We feel his loss but the senior guys have to be there to support everyone," Davies said of Son's exit.

"We need to make sure we, as experienced players, stand up and make sure we let every player in this team be the player they are."

Striker Dominic Solanke is fit to play following injury, however, Frank said midfielder Yves Bissouma had been left out for "disciplinary reasons".

Spurs have signed Mohammed Kudus from West Ham to bolster their attacking options and he could be in line to make his debut against PSG.

Eberechi Eze has been heavily linked with a possible move across London from Crystal Palace, but Frank declined to comment on the club's reported interest in the England winger.

SPORT

CRICKET

Brevis smashes record century as South Africa win

The 22-year-old smashes 125 in just 56 deliveries against Australia



South Africa's batsman Dewald Brevis plays a shot during the second Twenty20 against between Australia in Darwin yesterday. *(AFP)*

AFP
Darwin, Australia

Dewald Brevis belted South Africa's highest Twenty20 individual score with a blistering 125 not out from 56 balls as the tourists stayed alive in the three-match series after a 53-run victory over Australia in Darwin yesterday.

Australia's decision to bowl backfired as South Africa powered to a massive 218-7 on the back of Brevis' maiden century in international cricket.

The 22-year-old rescued South Africa from a shaky 57-3 and dominated a 126-run partnership with Tristan Stubbs (31).

"I'm extremely grateful, just happy to be out here on the winning side," said Brevis, who surpassed Faf du Plessis' 119 against the West Indies in 2015. Playing just his ninth T20 international, Brevis smashed eight sixes to leave Australia's powerful batting line-up with an uphill task.

Australia's daunting chase was made more difficult after the early wickets of opener Travis Head (five) and Cameron Green (nine).

Australia's hopes rested with in-form Tim David, fresh off his match-winning 83 in their 17-run victory in the series-opener at the same venue.

Promoted to number four, David started with a trio of boundaries and then bludgeoned several massive sixes, including one that landed on the roof.

But David's 24-ball assault ended on 50 when he hit spearhead Kagiso Rabada straight to cover.

Australia's chase ran out of steam, bowled out for 165 in the 18th over with quicks Corbin Bosch and Kwena Maphaka picking up three wickets each.

"Chasing that down was always going to be tough and we needed a few partnerships, which we couldn't do," Australia captain Mitchell Marsh said.

Without several key batsmen for this tour, South Africa had struggled to fire in the opening game.

Captain Aiden Markram signalled his intent with a sublime boundary off the first ball of the innings, rattling quick Josh Hazlewood.

But Markram (18) fell tamely to a fired-up Glenn Maxwell, who celebrated another wicket when he had Lhuan-dre Pretorius (10) stumped to leave South Africa in trouble.

Likened to legendary South Africa batsman AB de Villiers, Brevis turned the innings on its head to power past his previous highest T20 international score of 41.

Brevis received a life on 56 when substitute fielder Matthew Kuhnemann fumbled on the boundary off the bowling of an increasingly frustrated Maxwell.

Brevis made Australia pay and in a flash he was saluting the crowd after reaching his century with a boundary off his 41st delivery.

Maxwell and quick Ben Dwarshuis picked up two wickets apiece in an unusually ragged effort in the field for Australia, whose nine-match T20 win streak ended.

The series-decider will be played in the Queensland city of Cairns on Saturday.

BRIEF SCORES
South Africa 218 for 7 (Brevis 125*) **beat Australia 165** (David 50, Bosch 3-20, Maphaka 3-57) **by 53 runs**

SPOTLIGHT

Japan boxing to adopt stricter safety rules after deaths of two fighters

AFP
Tokyo

Japanese boxing officials said yesterday they would introduce urine tests, stricter rules on weight loss to prevent dehydration and improve medical cover at bouts following the deaths of two fighters.

The new measures were adopted during an emergency meeting of the Japan Pro Boxing Association (JPBA), the Japan Boxing Commission (JBC) and gym owners yesterday.

It was convened after super featherweight Shigetoshi Kotari and lightweight Hiromasa Urakawa, both 28, died days after brain surgery on injuries they sustained in separate bouts at Tokyo's Korakuen Hall on August 2.

The exact cause of the boxers' deaths is to be determined, but dehydration caused by cutting weight rapidly is regarded as a factor in making the brain more susceptible to bleeding, according to the World Boxing Association.

The deaths were "really regrettable," said JPBA president Shoji Kobayashi.

"We gathered today to establish a plan towards zero accidents," Kobayashi added.

New measures to be implemented as soon as possible include urine tests for measuring dehydration and stricter rules on boxers' rapid weight loss, said Tsuyoshi Yasukochi, secretary-general of the JBC.

Ambulances will also be required on site, even for non-world championship bouts. They will partner with hospitals that are equipped to perform emergency surgery for head and other injuries.

There will also be new rules on how long before a fight sparring must be stopped during training, he said.

Officials decided "to take all measures possible so we do not let the deaths of the two be in vain," Yasukochi added.

Kotari collapsed and later died after going 12 rounds in an Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation title fight. The JBC had already announced all future OPBF title bouts would be reduced to 10 rounds.

"That such an incident occurred involving top-level boxers means we may face arguments that boxing should be halted," admitted Toshiharu Kayama, former Japan welterweight champion and president of the boxing gym Ebisu K's Box.

"We, the association and gyms, want to think and change" the way the sport is contested, Kayama said.

An accident investigation committee will work to find out the cause of the boxers' deaths later this month and guidance on prevention measures will be updated, Yasukochi said.

The JBC and JPBA will also hold a safety meeting later this month, which will include the organisations' doctors as well as the amateur boxing federation, he added.

GOLF

Rose, Fleetwood clinch their Ryder Cup spots

Reuters
New York

With their performances at the FedEx St Jude Championship on Sunday, England's Justin Rose and Tommy Fleetwood clinched spots on Team Europe for the Ryder Cup next month against the United States.

Rose, who won the $20mn tournament in Memphis in a playoff, and Fleetwood, who struggled down the stretch to finish one shot off the pace, earned enough points to join Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy as automatic qualifiers for the competition on Sept 26-28 at Bethpage Black in Farmingdale, New York.

Team Europe captain Luke Donald is required to select the top six players in the Europe Team Rankings when the British Masters concludes on Aug 24. Donald gets to choose the other six golfers to round out his team, which will defend the Cup it won in 2023 in Italy. "Amazing to have both of these guys back on the Team," Donald wrote on X above a Ryder Cup Europe post on Rose and Fleetwood making the team. "They bring so much both on and off the course. Let's Go!"

Scotland's Robert MacIntyre, England's Tyrrell Hatton and Austria's Sepp Straka hold fourth through sixth place heading into this week's play. MacIntyre will be part of the BMW Championship field at Caves Valley Golf Club in Owings Mills, Md. Straka, however, withdrew from the $20mn tournament on Monday for family reasons.

ITALIAN ATHLETE DIES AT WORLD GAMES IN CHINA

Chengdu, China: Italian orienteering athlete Mattia Debertolis died yesterday after being found unresponsive during competition at the World Games in China's Chengdu, organisers said.
The 29-year-old was discovered unconscious during an orienteering event on August 8 and died four days later, said a joint statement from World Games organisers and the International Orienteering Federation (IOF).
The World Games is a multisport event held every four years for disciplines not included in the Olympics.
"Despite receiving immediate expert medical care at one of China's leading medical institutions, he passed away," the statement said.
It did not provide details on the cause of death.
The event took place in intense heat and humidity, with temperatures above 30 degrees.
Orienteering sees athletes navigate an unmarked course with a map and compass, punching in at designated spots along the route in the quickest time.
Debertolis, from Primiero in eastern Italy, was taking part in the final of the men's middle-distance, the first medal event of the Games.
The six-kilometre (3.7 miles) course featured 180 metres of ascent and 20 control points that athletes must visit.
Footage from the World Games' social media accounts showed athletes running through crop fields and villages on a largely rural course.
The winner, Switzerland's Riccardo Rancan, completed the course in 45 minutes and 22 seconds. "I needed to acclimatise quickly with hot and humid conditions. I think I managed quite well," Chinese state media quoted Rancan as saying.
Debertolis was listed as "Did Not Finish" in official results, along with 11 other athletes.

Black armbands
He was ranked 137th in the men's Orienteering World Rankings and had been competing since 2014, according to the IOF website.
He participated in several World Championships and World Cups as part of the Italian team.
Alongside his training, Debertolis was studying for a PhD at the KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, where he lived.
President of the Italian Orienteering Federation (FISO), Alfio Giomi, invited the national team to wear black armbands while competing in the World Mountain Bike Orienteering Championships, which begin on Tuesday in Poland.
Debertolis' family had agreed that "athletes will be able to participate in the competitions in Mattia's name and memory", Giomi said in an online statement. World Games organisers and the IOF were "struck by this tragedy and extend their heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of the athlete and the whole orienteering community", the joint statement read.
This is the 12th edition of the World Games and it runs until August 17, with approximately 4,000 athletes competing in 253 events.

FOCUS

India upbeat about 2030 Commonwealth Games

Reuters
New Delhi



India is bidding for the 2030 edition of the Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad. *(Reuters)*

Robust backing from the government and a desire to stage big-ticket events make India a strong candidate to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games, a top Indian Olympic Association (IOA) official told Reuters.

The world's most populous nation is bidding for the 2030 edition of the Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad to boost its bigger dream of hosting the 2036 Olympic Games at the western Indian city.

A Commonwealth Sports delegation visited Ahmedabad last week to share their experience from the previous Games and help the Indian organisers prepare a comprehensive bid to be submitted by the August 31 deadline.

"First and foremost, the mood of the country is upbeat for sporting activities and there is strong will of the government to host global sporting events," IOA executive council member Harpal Singh said by telephone.

"India wants to host larger sporting events – be it Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, or Olympics – and we have the full backing of the government.

"The existing infrastructure is very good and the roadmap for future infrastructure gave a lot of confidence to the delegation."

"Overall, I would say India is a very strong candidate and we'll be very competent to host the 2030 Games," said Singh.

The IOA is not taking anything for granted though, and is making sure Ahmedabad ticks every box to be unveiled as the host city at the Commonwealth Sport General Assembly in Glasgow in November.

"The delegation is looking into various issues – like sustainability, gender-balance and eco-friendliness," said Singh, also a member of the sports committee of the Commonwealth federation.

"They are looking particularly into the sustainability issue. The Games has to be sustainable beyond 2030 and must also align with the UN sustainable development goals.

"It must inspire the youth of the Commonwealth community while showcasing our diverse culture."

India hosted the 2010 Commonwealth Games in New Delhi, but the event was blighted by allegations of corruption and mismanagement. The country is determined to make a better impression in 2030 to bolster its bid to host the Olympic Games six years later.

"We've not hosted (since 2010) a major sports event with so many countries across all six regions," Singh said.

"So it will be a right step in that direction for our final dream of 2036."

Canada and Nigeria are also in the fray to host the 2030 edition of the Games featuring athletes from 70-odd Commonwealth nations and territories.

TENNIS

Sinner advances amid Cincinnati power-failure

Widespread power outage completely stopped play for 75 minutes

AFP
Cincinnati


Jannik Sinner of Italy celebrates his win against Gabriel Diallo of Canada during the Cincinnati Open at Lindner Family Tennis Center in Mason, Ohio. *(Reuters)*

Jannik Sinner ignored power failure interruptions and a blaring alarm to defeat Gabriel Diallo 6-2, 7-6 (8/6) on Monday's day of distractions at the ATP and WTA Cincinnati Open.

The top seeded defending champion got down to business against a Canadian ranked 35th who was plagued by eight first-set double-faults and 49 unforced errors in the match as he faced the best in the world.

Sinner recovered smoothly from an early break down and had his hands full on his way into the fourth round, sending over an ace on match point after saving a set point in the tiebreaker.

Play was stopped briefly with Sinner leading 4-2 as the audio portion of the electronic line-calling system suddenly failed.

Earlier, both players had to deal with flickering LED screens directly behind them courtside.

The pair agreed to soldier on without the system, with the chair umpire temporarily relaying the algorithm's decisions - which he saw on his chair's tablet - to the players when necessary as a re-boot was undertaken.

That minor malfunction came two hours after the chaos of a widespread power outage which completely stopped play around the grounds for 75 minutes.

Five minutes later, with Sinner leading 1-0 in the second set after winning the first, the chaos continued with an alarm going off somewhere in the stadium and play suspended for the third time.

Sinner and Diallo continued to carry on with the distraction blaring somewhat faintly in the background before it finally halted after another game.

Sinner polished off victory for his 23rd consecutive hardcourt win in under two hours.

"It was a very difficult day at the office," the Italian said. "You have to find the balance against these big servers. I struggled with that at times today.

"But I need tough matches like this, I'm happy I got one before the Grand Slam... I'm happy about today, but I know I can do things better."

US fourth seed Taylor Fritz endured a one-hour delay after the first set before defeating Lorenzo Sonego 7-6 (7/4), 7-5 for a 21st win in 25 matches.

"I can play better, but there has been no time to really train and get ready," Fritz said. "I'm looking forward to fine tuning the week before the US Open."

Compatriot Frances Tiafoe advanced past Ugo Humbert of France 6-4, 6-4 in 82 minutes and lines up next against Holger Rune, who beat Alex Michelsen 7-6 (7/4), 6-3.

NO 1 SABALENKA WINS

In the WTA event, top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka fought through a three-hour battle to hold off an inspired Emma Raducanu 7-6 (7/3), 4-6, 7-6 (7/5) for a fourth-round spot in a repeat of a victory from the Wimbledon third round in July.

Defending champion Sabalenka endured a struggle but finished with two aces in the closing stages.

"I'm happy to get through this difficult match," Sabalenka said. "I just hope tomorrow is a day off. I need time to recover from such a great battle."

British number one Raducanu survived a 25-minute eighth game of the final set, which went to 13 deuces, with Raducanu saving four break points before finally holding for 4-all and eventually into a tiebreaker.

Sabalenka squeezed out victory with a sixth ace for 5-4 in the breaker and delivered her seventh on her second match point to win in three hours and nine minutes.

"It was all about momentum," Sabalenka said. "I took some risks at the end, went for crazy shots, went to the net."

Sabalenka is bidding for her 10th trophy at the 1000 level and second this season after winning at Madrid. "I can take lessons from this," Raducanu said. "With work and practice I think I can hold my level higher for longer. She's world number one for a reason. We had a three-hour match and I felt pretty good out there for the most part."

Raducanu was called out by the chair umpire on unauthorised conversations with new Spanish coach Francisco Roig.

Australian Open champion Madison Keys lost just four games in defeating Japan's Aoi Ito.

ATHLETICS

Duplantis breaks pole vault world record for 13th time in Hungary


Sweden's Armand Duplantis celebrates with fans after setting a new pole vault world record at 6.29m during the pole vault event of the Hungarian Athletics Grand Prix in Budapest yesterday. *(AFP)*

Reuters
Budapest

Sweden's Mondo Duplantis broke his own pole vault world record with a clearance of 6.29m at the Hungarian Grand Prix meeting in Budapest yesterday, the 13th time he has set a new world mark as he continues to defy gravity.

The double-Olympic champion maintained his tradition of improving on his previous record by one centimetre, with his second attempt at the Istvan Gyulai Memorial overhauling the mark he set in Stockholm in June.

Duplantis had looked a little off his best form, missing his first attempt at 6.11m and, after Greece's Emmanouil Karalis retired having failed twice at the same height, the Swede had the bar raised to make his usual world record attempt.

The 25-year-old twice world champion was unsuccessful on his first try and while he rattled the bar slightly on his second effort, Duplantis looked up almost in disbelief to see he had again reached a new height in the discipline he dominates.

"I love Hungary very much. The track is very good, I love the crowd, I would like to return, thank you," Duplantis said.

Duplantis, who won his second world title in the same stadium in 2023, ran straight to the crowd to celebrate with his partner Desire Inglander and his family.

On Monday, Duplantis missed most of the press conference ahead of the Budapest meeting, apologising when he turned up late, saying he had a lot of work to do on his time management.

"I think I'll have to make up for it tomorrow with a big leap," Duplantis said.

He duly stayed true to his word to the delight of the Budapest crowd, and has now soared 15 centimetres higher than Sergey Bubka, who Duplantis once described as 'mythological'.

The American-born Duplantis first broke the world record in 2020 in Poland, with his leap of 6.17m surpassing by one centimetre the previous record set by Frenchman Renaud Lavillenie six years earlier.

Lavillenie had beaten Bubka's best jump of 6.14m, which had stood for almost 20 years, but Duplantis has taken the sport to another level and on Saturday competes at the Silesia Diamond League, where he also broke the world record last year.

COMMENT

Pegula backs US Open mixed doubles overhaul but urges more dialogue before key decisions

Reuters
New York

World number four Jessica Pegula said the controversial mixed doubles event at the US Open could generate strong spectator interest but urged organisers to improve communication with players before making major format changes.

The year's final Grand Slam announced in February that its mixed doubles competition, which will offer $1mn in prize money, would take place from August 19-20 ahead of the singles main draw the following week.

The competition's format was also overhauled to feature a field of 16 teams - half of the 32 teams that competed last year - with eight entries based on the combined singles rankings of players and eight wild cards.

Matches will be best of three sets, with short sets to four games, with no-advantage scoring, tiebreakers at four-all and a 10-point tiebreak in lieu of a third set.

The final will be a best-of-three set match to six games.

The move was described by defending US Open champions Sara Errani and Andrea Vavassori as a "profound injustice" to doubles players, and Pegula, who is part of the WTA Player Council, said more communication was needed between organisers and players.

"I'm honoured that they asked me to play. It's going to be great, it's going to be fun and the fans will really enjoy it," Pegula told reporters at the ongoing Cincinnati Open.

"At the same time, how they went about it, I didn't think was really great ... We were like, Okay, you guys went rogue and changed the format and didn't tell anybody. You just did it.

'DID YOU TALK TO THE PLAYERS'?

"Did you talk to the players? Did you get their input about how it could be better? That's something that we as players are trying to work with them on, having that line of communication be a lot smoother.

"I feel like maybe if there was feedback about the format, then the (reaction) would be a little different, not so all over the place."

The US Open said previously it understood the feedback from players but stressed that the reimagined event will elevate mixed doubles with a bigger spotlight and inspire more people to play the sport.

Pegula, who will team up with fellow American Tommy Paul in the competition that also features pairs such as Carlos Alcaraz and Emma Raducanu and Jannik Sinner and Emma Navarro, said the move to limit the field could impact doubles players' earnings.

"It's not good when you have players saying they're upset that now they can't play, or that it's a way for them to make money and now they don't have that," Pegula added.

"It's going to be a really fun event, but at the same time, I wish that they would have been communicating with us a little bit better."

FOCUS

Olympic medallist Kerley suspended for whereabouts failure

AFP
Los Angeles

American Fred Kerley, a two-time 100m Olympic medallist, has been provisionally suspended for failing to notify anti-doping officials of his whereabouts, the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) announced yesterday.

Kerley, who took 100m silver in Tokyo and bronze last year in Paris as well as the 2022 world 100m crown, was suspended for "failing to comply with his anti-doping whereabouts obligations," according to the AIU.

Elite athletes have strict requirements about informing anti-doping officials about their locations, such as at training camps or when travelling, and must provide a time and location each day to comply with rules regarding unannounced doping tests.

Three failures within a year to comply with the requirements, such as a missed test or inaccurate information given to the anti-doping agency, are punishable.

Kerley, 30, was a Diamond League champion in 2018 at 400m and third in the event at the 2019 worlds before dropping the distance to concentrate on running the 100.

After a runner-up effort to Italy's Marcell Jacobs at the Tokyo Olympics, Kerley took the world title in 2022 on home soil at Eugene in 9.76 seconds, his personal best before adding bronze to his Olympic medal collection last year at Paris.

The provisional ban adds to an already chaotic 2025 campaign for Kerley, who withdrew from the US championships two weeks ago to end his hopes for running at the World Championships at Tokyo in September.

ARRESTED IN MIAMI

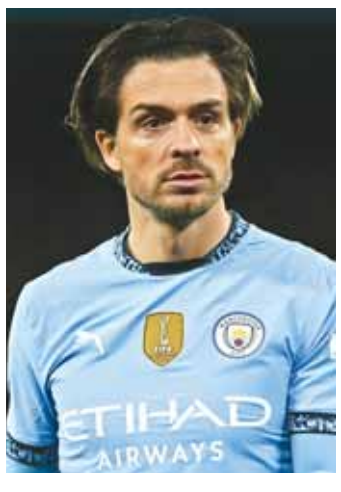
Kerley was arrested in Miami in early May after an altercation at the official hotel for athletes competing in Grand Slam Track, a new series launched by Michael Johnson this year.

In January, Kerley was arrested in Miami after a confrontation with police became physical after he expressed concern over his vehicle, parked near a crime investigation scene.

In a separate case, he was accused and prosecuted in January for domestic violence against the mother of his children. He pleaded not guilty in both cases.

SPOTLIGHT

Manchester City winger Grealish joins Everton on a season-long loan



AFP
London

Manchester City winger **Jack Grealish** joined Everton on loan for the 2025-26 season yesterday in a bid to salvage his troubled career.

Grealish fell out of favour with City boss Pep Guardiola last season and made just seven starts in the Premier League.

The 29-year-old was left out of City's squad for the Club World Cup in the United States in a clear indication that he was no longer wanted by Guardiola.

Everton's deal for Grealish, who earns a reported £300,000 ($402,000) per week, comes just before the new Premier League campaign starts for the Toffees at Leeds on August 18.

"I'm over the moon to have signed for Everton - it's massive for me, honestly. This is a great club, with great fans," Grealish said.

Grealish has chosen the number 18 shirt at Everton in tribute to Wayne Rooney and Paul Gascoigne, who wore it during their time with the club.

"My two favourite English players ever are Wayne Rooney and Paul Gascoigne and I know they both wore number 18 here," he said. "I spoke to Wayne before I came here and I mentioned that to him - about the number 18 - so I hope he's happy as well."

Grealish joined City from Aston Villa in 2021 for a then British record fee of £100mn.

The England international has won three Premier League titles, the Champions League and the FA Cup with City, but his form had dipped significantly since he played a key role in the 2022-23 treble-winning campaign.

'ONLY ONE PLACE I WANTED TO GO'

He was left out of England's Euro 2024 squad, an omission that left him "heartbroken". Guardiola rarely picked Grealish last season despite City's struggles and he was left on the bench for the shock FA Cup final defeat against Crystal Palace. Amid concerns about his personal life after repeated reports of alcohol-fuelled late nights, Grealish will have a chance to revive his spluttering career at Everton and potentially earn a recall to the England squad ahead of next year's World Cup.

"As soon as I spoke to the manager, I knew there was only one place that I wanted to go," Grealish said. "On social media, I've been flooded with messages from Everton supporters, so there's that side of it as well and that's another reason why I chose Everton.

"I want to say thank you to the fans for all of the messages I've had already. Thank you for all of the love and support. I hope I can repay you now and I'm sure I will."

Everton recently left Goodison Park to move into their new Hill Dickinson stadium ahead of the season, with Grealish set to take centre stage in the plush arena.

He ranks as Everton's biggest signing since the end of last season after a quiet summer in the transfer market for boss David Moyes.

"We welcome Jack to Everton and we're very pleased to have him on board," Moyes said.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Arsenal hoping for title success with big-money signing

'I was extremely happy with the way that we have approached the wind'

Reuters
London

After watching three consecutive Premier League titles slip through their fingers, Arsenal have opened their wallet wide in the close season, completing early moves to ensure squad depth does not derail their championship dreams again.

Having finished second behind Manchester City in the 2022-23 and 2023-24 campaigns, Arsenal failed to build on that momentum in the transfer market last summer when reinforcing the attack.

Fans were left scratching their heads after deadline day when Raheem Sterling, a winger in decline, was brought in on loan, with Chelsea only too happy to oblige in offloading a player who was not in their plans.

The painful pattern of finishing second was compounded last season when they fell behind Liverpool after losing key forwards Bukayo Saka, Gabriel Jesus and Kai Havertz to long-term injuries, their league title drought stretching to 21 years. But new sporting director Andrea Berta, replacing Edu, has overseen a dramatic shift in approach as the club spent nearly 200mn pounds ($266.30mn) before August.

In came midfielders Martin Zubimendi and Christian Norgaard, defender Cristhian Mosquera, winger Noni Madueke, goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga and striker Viktor Gyokeres - the final piece of the puzzle.

Arsenal scored only 69 goals in the league last term, a massive drop from the 91 they netted the season before.

Sporting's Sweden striker Gyokeres, meanwhile, found the net an eye-watering 54 times in all competitions last term to become the hottest target in the transfer market.

"I was extremely happy with the way that we have approached the window and how aggressive we've been," Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said.


Arsenal forward Viktor Gyokeres takes part in a training session at the Kai Tak Stadium in Hong Kong on July 30, 2025. *(AFP)*

"So far, we are very happy with what we have achieved. Make sure that at the end of the window, we continue to be super happy.

Gyokeres's arrival also suggests a potential tactical shift in Arsenal's style of play, with the striker poles apart from how Havertz operates when leading the line.

While the German constantly drops deep, Gyokeres's natural habitat is in the final third and his direct style of play might force Arsenal to get the ball upfield faster.

Spaniard Zubimendi's mobility, his deep-lying playmaking skills and defensive nous will give Arsenal's midfield a measure of steel while also controlling the tempo.

Norgaard's tactical awareness and versatility makes him a welcome addition while the Dane also brings Premier League experience and leadership qualities having captained Brentford.

"You have to mix it up with some veteran players as well. I think we have a really good balance in our squad this year," midfielder Mikel Merino said.

While the big-money signings grab the headlines, Arsenal's famed academy continues producing gems.

Last season heralded the arrival of Ethan Nwaneri and Myles Lewis-Skelly on the big stage as the teenagers played a fearless and refreshing brand of football.

Now, one more teenager is knocking on the door after impressing in pre-season - 15-year-old Max Dowman, who Arteta described as special.

Although still a long way from signing a professional contract, Dowman had already shown he was too good for the Under-18 league when the attacking midfielder netted 15 times last season.

In Arsenal's pre-season friendly win over Newcastle United, Dowman showed he could deal with the physicality of the professional game, gliding across the pitch and skipping challenges while also earning a penalty.

Arteta has succeeded in making Arsenal contenders not only in the Premier League but also in the Champions League where they made a memorable semi-final run.

But he must now take the final step to lift silverware and squad depth can no longer be an excuse as they hunt for a first trophy since winning the FA Cup five years ago.

"To be in the dispute for titles, you have to have the best players... We have let a couple of titles slip through our fingers recently," defender Gabriel Magalhaes said.

"We almost won. But I think this year, things will be different."

FOCUS

PSG sign Zabarnyi from Bournemouth on five-year deal

Reuters
Paris

Paris St Germain have signed centre back Illia Zabarnyi from Premier League club Bournemouth on a five-year contract, the European champions said yesterday, with the 22-year-old becoming the French club's first Ukrainian player in history.

Financial details were not disclosed but media reports said the transfer fee was worth around 63mn euros ($73mn).

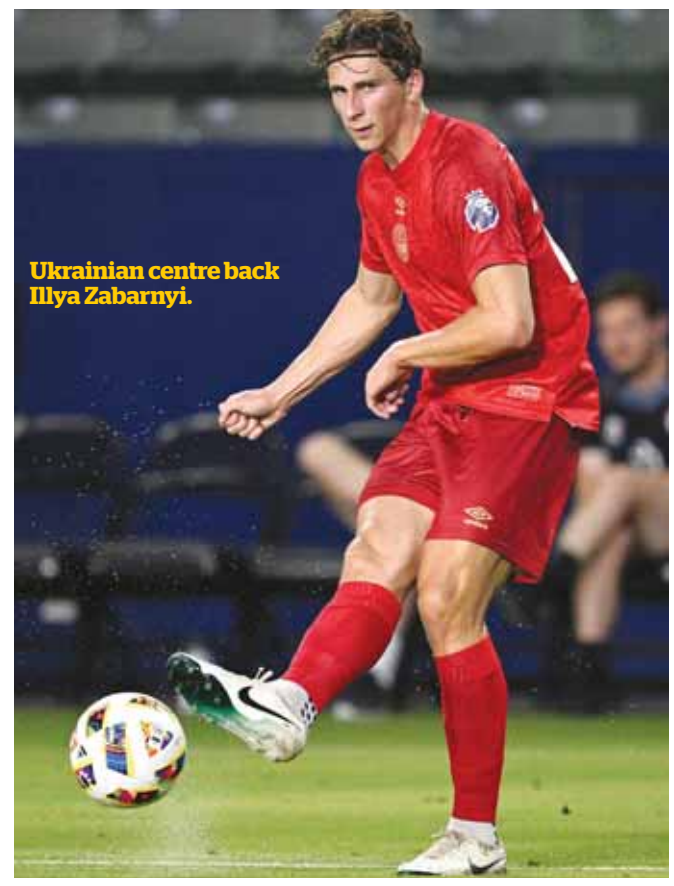
The Ukraine international was a key part of Bournemouth's defensive line-up last season, making 36 appearances as the club achieved positive goal difference in a Premier League campaign for the first time, finishing ninth. Zabarnyi is the latest Bournemouth defender to depart this summer after Dean Huijsen joined Real Madrid and Milos Kerkez signed for Liverpool.

"I'm very happy to join Paris Saint-Germain, the best club in the world, with the best project. I am here to give everything I have on the pitch and I'm looking forward to making my debut and meeting the fans," Zabarnyi said in a statement.

Zabarnyi made his senior debut at his hometown club Dyanmo Kyiv before joining Bournemouth in January 2023 on a five-and-a-half year contract.

The English club awarded Zabarnyi, known for his aggressive defending and dominance in aerial duels, with a contract extension until 2029 after an impressive 2023-24 campaign.

"We're delighted to continue the strengthening of our squad with the signature of Illia Zabarnyi. Illia is a talented international player and a great professional. He will make a major contribution to everything that we are building long-term at Paris Saint-Germain," PSG President Nasser al-Khelaifi said.


Ukrainian centre back Illya Zabarnyi.

Barcelona-Villarreal game shifted to Miami

The La Liga match between Villarreal and Barcelona in December was moved to Miami by the Spanish football federation (RFEF), pending approval from UEFA and FIFA. While the Spanish Super Cup has been played abroad, notably in Saudi Arabia, it would be a first for a game in one of Europe's leading domestic leagues. The RFEF said it would forward the request to the governing bodies to stage the game at Miami's Hard Rock Stadium on Saturday, December 20.

Last Liverpool goal had special meaning for Jota

Diogo Jota revealed the emotional meaning behind his last Liverpool goal in a touching interview before his death in a car crash. Jota and his brother Andre Silva died when their Lamborghini went off the road in the accident in northern Spain on July 3. The Portugal forward was on his way back to England to start pre-season training after helping Liverpool win the Premier League title last term.

Jota's final goal for Liverpool was the vital winner in the Merseyside derby against Everton at Anfield in April. Speaking in an interview just weeks before his death, Jota admitted he felt proud to be able to contribute to Arne Slot's team by scoring in such an important game. "It was a very tough season for me but I was always there fighting and I could help the team that day and I'm proud of what I could still do," he said in the documentary titled "Champions 24-25: The Inside Story".

"It's hard to describe. That's the feeling I look for when I play football, that's why you put all your life and all your efforts to moments like that, moments where you can decide an important game."

Jota, 28, spent five years with Liverpool after joining from Wolves in 2020. He won the Premier League, FA Cup and League Cup during his time at Anfield.

"It is something I could not even dream as a kid, I wanted to play in the Premier League but I could never imagine to win it," Jota said in the documentary about his Liverpool success. "Pictures that will be shown forever. It is a remarkable achievement for a small guy that came from Gondomar, where I had this dream."

Liverpool have posthumously retired his number 20 shirt and the club have announced that Jota will be remembered with a permanent sculpture outside Anfield, while a mural of the star already adorns the wall of a building near the stadium.

Football body limits Kenya-Zambia crowd size after disturbances

Kenya will play their upcoming match against Zambia in the African Nations Championship (CHAN) in front of a reduced crowd, the local organising chairman said yesterday, after home fans have repeatedly invaded the stadium ahead of games. It is the first time three east African countries - Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda - have hosted the competition, but the historic moment has been over-shadowed by long delays over the stadiums' readiness and now unruly spectators. Crowds have stormed Nairobi's Kasarani stadium without tickets at previous matches involving Kenya, with videos on social media showing people chaotically streaming into the facility being shared - and condemned - widely online.

On Monday, the Confederation of African Football (CAF) issued a fine to the Football Kenya Federation (FKF) totalling $17,500 over the disturbances in the stadiums. "CAF have told us we shall not have a full stadium," local organising committee chairman Nicholas Musonye told reporters on Tuesday.

"Why should we be punished? It's our bad behaviour. Only 27,000 fans who have purchased online e-tickets will be allowed to enter the stadium," he said, with physical tickets not accepted.

The stadium has a capacity for CHAN games of 48,000. "Our security will be on duty alert and make sure nobody violates the order," Musonye added. Responding to the fines and the crowd reduction, FKF chief Hussein Mohammed urged attendees to adhere to the CAF protocols. "The future of Kenyan football depends on our collective responsibility and cooperation," he said. "Continued security breaches risk attracting severe sanctions from relevant authorities, sanctions that would ultimately deny Kenyan fans the chance to enjoy such events in the future and erode the gains that we have already achieved in the recent past," he said.

Former Premier League referee Coote given eight-week ban over Klopp comments

Disgraced former Premier League referee David Coote has been given an eight-week suspension by the Football Association and told to attend an education programme over disparaging comments he made about ex-Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp.

Coote was sacked in December by Professional Game Match Officials Ltd (PGMOL) after a video circulated on social media the previous month of him making derogatory remarks about Klopp and Liverpool in 2020. He has been further sanctioned by the FA for an "aggravated breach" of rule E3.2, because of the reference he made to Klopp's German nationality in the video. The FA's written reasons for the verdict announced Tuesday said Coote expressed "deep remorse" and acknowledged his comments were "crass and inappropriate".

Coote was charged by the FA in June, with the English game's ruling body saying at the time he would face no further action in regard to separate allegations of gambling misconduct, which he had strenuously denied. The FA said those allegations had been fully investigated.

SPOTLIGHT

Sporting merit 'meaningless' after Europa League demotion: Palace

AFP
London

Premier League side Crystal Palace said yesterday that sporting merit had been "rendered meaningless" by UEFA's decision to demote them from the Europa League.

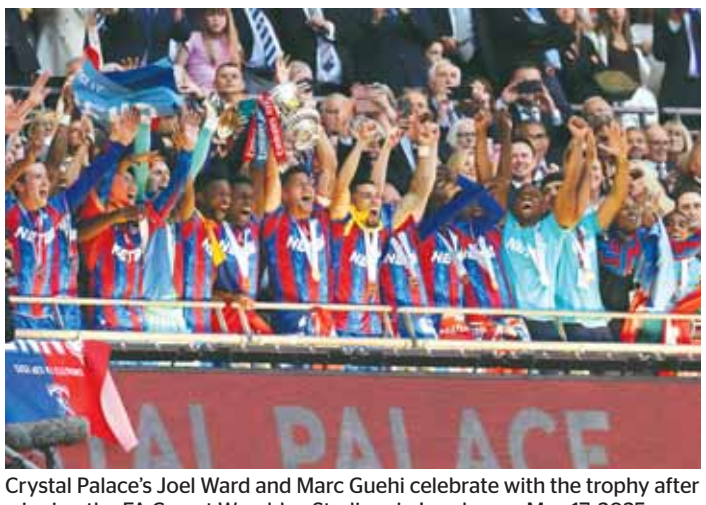
The FA Cup winners have been forced to play in this season's Conference League after European football's governing body UEFA ruled in July that American businessman John Textor had control or influence at both Palace and French club Lyon.

Palace tried to have the punishment overturned, but on Monday the Lausanne-based Court of Arbitration for Sport announced the Premier League club had lost their appeal. Nottingham Forest are set to take Palace's spot in the Europa League. Palace chairman Steve Parish had already been vocal in his criticism after the initial demotion and, with their fate sealed, the south London club again blasted the decision.

"At a time when we should be celebrating our victory in the Community Shield at Wembley, the decision by UEFA and followed by the Court of Arbitration for Sport shows that sporting merit is rendered meaningless," Palace said in a statement.

"When we won the FA Cup against Manchester City on that momentous day in May, our manager and players earned the right to play Europa League football.

"We have been denied that opportunity. It appears that certain clubs, organisations and individuals have a unique privilege and power.


Crystal Palace's Joel Ward and Marc Guehi celebrate with the trophy after winning the FA Cup at Wembley Stadium in London on May 17, 2025.

"This growing and unhealthy influence has shattered the hopes and dreams of Crystal Palace supporters, and does not bode well for aspirational teams all over Europe competing to progress when rules and sanctions are unevenly applied in the most flagrant way."

UEFA regulations state that where one or more clubs are found to have shared ownership, they cannot play in the same competition, and Lyon held on to the Europa League spot by virtue of their higher league position.

Palace missed a March 1 UEFA deadline for team in multi-club groups to change their ownership structure.

Textor has since sold his shares to New York Jets owner Woody Johnson, a takeover completed in late July.

"Multi-club structures hide behind the charade of a 'blind trust' while clubs such as ours, who have no connection to another club whatsoever, are prevented from playing in the same competition," the Palace statement added.

"To compound the injustice, clubs that appear to have huge informal arrangements with each other are also allowed to participate and even possibly play against each other. Palace added that the process was "designed to severely restrict and, in our case, make it almost impossible to receive a fair hearing".

Palace beat Premier League champions Liverpool in the Community Shield at the weekend, winning a penalty shootout after the match finished 2-2 in 90 minutes.