

# Dubai Tennis Championships: Daniil Medvedev wins title

Russian Daniil Medvedev swept past compatriot Andrey Rublev to win the Dubai Tennis Championship title and continue his superb run of form. The 27-year-old beat the defending champion 6-2 to make it three titles in a row after victories in Doha and Rotterdam, BBC reported. Medvedev dominated from the start, breaking his rival in the first game. He maintained his focus to make it 14 matches unbeaten and secure a 18th tour-level title. The former world number one did not drop a set all

week and had ended Novak Djokovic's unbeaten start to the season in Friday's semi-final. He briefly dropped out of the top 10 after an early loss at the Australian Open capped a difficult 12 months but he has responded superbly since. He outplayed his former junior rival who never really got into his stride and wrapped up victory in one hour and eight minutes. "It's amazing because the start of the year was not perfect," said Medvedev. "In tennis, when you don't win tournaments you're always doubting no matter

what happens in practice, so I was doubting a lot and now it just feels better. I'm really happy with these three weeks and looking forward to the next ones. "It was a very tactical match. I know Andrey can cause a lot of trouble to everyone. Every time we play he tries to make me suffer, I try to make him suffer. "Today I managed to be on top, but the next match could be a different story." Russian and Belarusian players were banned from competing at Wimbledon last year and are waiting to learn if they can take part in this year's tournament.



● BBC

## NBA investigates after Morant appears to hold gun



● BBC

BBC- Memphis Grizzlies star Ja Morant says he takes "full responsibility" for his actions as the NBA investigate a video that appears to show him holding a gun in a nightclub. All-Star guard Morant, 23, appeared to hold up a handgun in a live broadcast on his Instagram page on Saturday.

It occurred hours after the Grizzlies lost 113-97 to the Denver Nuggets.

Morant, who has been suspended for "at least two games", apologized and said he would "get help".

"I take full responsibility for my actions last night," he said in a statement.

"I'm sorry to my family, team-mates, coaches, fans, partners, the city of Memphis and the entire Grizzlies organization for letting you down.

"I'm going to take some time away to get help and work on learning better methods of dealing with stress and my overall well-being."

NBA spokesman Mike Bass said, "We are aware of a social media post involving Ja Morant and are investigating."

In a statement, the Memphis Grizzlies said that "Ja Morant will be away from the team for at least the next two games".

The Grizzlies, who are second in the Western Conference, face the Los Angeles Clippers on Sunday and the Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday in their next two fixtures.

Morant is averaging 27.1 points and 8.2 assists per game this season and made his second consecutive All-Star Game appearance last month.

# Man Utd takeover progressing! Al Thani & Sir Jim Ratcliffe bids through to 'next stage'



● GETTY IMAGES

The race to buy Manchester United continues with two bidders reaching the next stage of the takeover process. Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad Al Thani and Sir Jim Ratcliffe have made bids for United and will now meet with the Raine Group, the bank overseeing the sale for the Glazer family, to take matters further, according to Sky Sports. The two parties will be given access to some of the club's financial details which will then allow both sides to firm up their offers for the Red Devils. The Glazer family put United

up for sale in November but it's still not clear if a takeover will materialise as the club's American owners will not sell unless their £6 billion asking price is met. The two bids made so far are thought to have fallen short of the Glazer's valuation of the club. The Glazer family could even end up staying at Old Trafford. American hedge fund Elliott Management have also expressed an interest in the club and could pump funds into the Red Devils with the Glazers remaining at the helm. The Red Devils are back in action on Sunday against Liverpool in the Premier League.



● QIB

## Real Madrid hoping to end barren La Liga runs against Betis

Real Madrid will travel to Real Betis on Sunday evening looking to stay in the La Liga title race. Carlo Ancelotti's side could be ten points behind leaders Barcelona by the time they kick off, with the Blaugrana playing Valencia earlier in the day. Betis have won their last three league matches, scoring eight goals in that time. Keeping a clean sheet could be difficult for Real Madrid, meaning that they will likely need to score multiple goals to win. Alongside Karim Benzema, Vinicius Jr and Rodrygo will be expected to provide the goals for Los Blancos, with the Brazilian

duo both expected to start in Andalusia. However, neither have scored away from the Santiago Bernabeu in La Liga in almost six months. Rodrygo last scored away from home in the Madrid derby victory at the Metropolitan in September, while Vinicius' last strike on the road was against Espanyol in August. Both will be looking to end their scoreless runs against Betis on Sunday, as Real Madrid look to bounce back from two disappointing results in the last eight days.



● FOOTBALL ESPANA

## F1: Alonso warns Ferrari about Aston Martin's race pace

Fernando Alonso will start the Bahrain Grand Prix from fifth place on the grid. During free practice, Fernando Alonso and Aston Martin were flying, with the Spaniard going quickest in FP2 and FP3. There had been suggestions that Aston Martin's impressive lap times were due to other teams sandbagging but so far the team's performance this weekend has proved that this is not the case. Both Aston Martins made their way into Q3 with relative ease, with Lance Stroll qualifying in P8 while Fernando Alonso qualified in an impressive P5.

Only the Red Bulls and Ferraris managed to go faster than Alonso in Q3, putting Aston Martin in a good position to get a head start over Mercedes in the early battle for P3 in the constructors' championship. Alonso was questioned for leaving Alpine for Aston Martin last summer, with his new team sitting in seventh in the championship at the time but it seems that the Spaniard's decision has been vindicated already. Aston Martin genuinely look like a force to be reckoned with this season, with Alonso telling the media that his team's pace seems almost like a dream.



● F1 NEWS

## Mbappe breaks PSG goal record



● BBC

BBC- Kylian Mbappe scored a club-record 201st goal for Paris St-Germain in an entertaining 4-2 win over Nantes.

He had to wait until the 92nd minute but was clinical as he turned to finish left-footed and go clear of Edinson Cavani at the top of the PSG goal list.

The France forward, who turned 24 in December, has established himself as a footballing superstar.

He has played at two World Cup finals, winning the trophy in 2018 and earning the Golden Boot as top scorer in 2022.