

25 Hamilton can land KO blow at typhoon-threatened Japanese GP

26 As typhoon nears, Wales weather Fiji storm to reach WCup quarter-finals

27 Twitter spat between footballers' wives Rooney, Vardy grips Britain



Oilers ride Neal's 4 goals to win

Marchand, Bruins extend perfect start in Vegas



NEW YORK: Brock Nelson #29 of the New York Islanders falls on the ice as Zack Kassian #44 of the Edmonton Oilers takes possession of the puck during the third period of their game at the NYCB's LIVE Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale, New York.—AFP

NEW YORK: James Neal collected a natural hat trick in a span of less than nine minutes bridging the first and second periods and finished with a career-high four goals Tuesday night as the Edmonton Oilers cruised to a 5-2 win over the New York Islanders in Uniondale, NY. Zack Kassian also scored for the Oilers, who are 3-0-0 for the first time since the 2008-09 season. Goalie Mikko Koskinen made 25 saves in his season debut. Anthony Beauvillier and Matt Martin scored for the Islanders, who lost two of three on a season-opening, three-game homestand. Starting goalie Semyon Varlamov was chased after giving up four goals on 19 shots. Thomas Greiss made seven saves in relief. Neal became the third Oilers player this century to collect four goals in a game and the first since teammate Connor McDavid did it against the Tampa Bay Lightning on Feb. 5, 2018.

STARS 4, CAPITALS 3 (OT)

Tyler Seguin scored 43 seconds into overtime as visiting Dallas recorded its first win of the season by defeating Washington. Alexander Radulov, who scored in the third period, skated up the left wing on an odd-man rush before sliding a feed that Seguin converted at the right post as Dallas improved to 8-1-0 in its past nine visits to Washington. Roope Hintz scored his team-leading fourth goal. Nick Caamano netted his first career NHL tally and Ben Bishop made 29 saves for the Stars. Evgeny Kuznetsov scored in his return from a season-opening three-game suspension for Washington.

HURRICANES 6, PANTHERS 3

Carolina, off to a 4-0 start for the first time since moving to Raleigh in 1997, scored the game's first five goals and held on to win in Sunrise, Fla. The Hurricanes had prevailed in their first three games despite trailing in the third period, rallying to win after regulation each time. But on Tuesday, they raced to a 4-0 first-period lead with goals by Jordan Staal, Teuvo Teravainen, Dougie Hamilton and Ryan Dzingel. Goalie James Reimer, traded by

the Panthers in June for minimal return (a sixth-round pick and a player no longer in the NHL), stopped 47 shots to defeat his former team. Sergei Bobrovsky, the goalie signed by the Panthers in July for \$70 million over seven years, stopped 10 of 14 shots and was lifted after just one period.

PREDATORS 5, SHARKS 2

Roman Josi scored a pair of goals to carry host Nashville past winless San Jose. Kyle Turris, Filip Forsberg and Dante Fabbro contributed goals, and Matt Duchene recorded his sixth assist, tying him with Edmonton's Connor McDavid and Leon Draisaitl for the NHL lead. Pekka Rinne stopped 33 of 35 shots to improve to 2-0-0. Brent Burns had a goal and an assist, and Evander Kane netted a goal in his return after a three-game suspension for the Sharks, who at 0-4-0 have matched the worst four-game start in franchise history.

BRUINS 4, GOLDEN KNIGHTS 3

Brad Marchand had two goals and an assist, and David Pastrnak added a goal and two assists as visiting Boston scored four unanswered goals en route to a victory in Las Vegas. Torey Krug contributed a goal and an assist for the Bruins, who have won the first three games of a season-opening, four-game road trip that concludes on Thursday night at Colorado. It is Boston's first 3-0-0 start in 18 years. Max Pacioretty and Mark Stone each had a goal and an assist, and Reilly Smith also scored for Vegas, which took its first loss in three games this season. Marc-Andre Fleury made 31 saves.

JETS 4, PENGUINS 1

Despite being depleted on the blue line, Winnipeg got three goals from defencemen in a win at Pittsburgh. Ville Heinola, Tucker Poolman and Neal Pionk scored, along with winger Nikolaj Ehlers, for the Jets, who played without defencemen Josh Morrissey (upper-body injury) and Dmitry Kulikov (personal reasons). Mark Scheifele and Patrik Laine each added three assists, and

goalie Connor Hellebuyck made 37 saves for Winnipeg. Sidney Crosby scored his first goal of the season for Pittsburgh.

KINGS 4, FLAMES 3 (OT)

Drew Doughty scored the game-winner 50 seconds into overtime for Los Angeles, which surrendered a three-goal lead before beating host Calgary for its first victory of the season. Ilya Kovalchuk collected a goal and two assists, and Jack Campbell made 26 saves for the Kings, who rebounded

from a 6-5, season-opening loss to the Oilers on Saturday. Doughty added two assists. Tyler Toffoli contributed a goal and an assist, and Sean Walker also scored for Los Angeles. Matthew Tkachuk had two goals and an assist for the Flames, including the tying tally with 1:04 left in regulation. Noah Hanifin also scored for Calgary.

DUCKS 3, RED WINGS 1

Nick Ritchie and Jakob Silfverberg scored 47 seconds apart midway through

the third period, and Anaheim topped host Detroit. Rickard Rakell also scored in the third period off a Silfverberg assist as Anaheim remained unbeaten through three games. Ducks goaltender John Gibson made 31 saves. Filip Hronek scored for Detroit while Jimmy Howard stopped 26 shots. Anthony Mantha, who scored four goals against Dallas on Sunday, came up empty on four shots on goal as the Red Wings lost for the first time in three games this season. — Reuters

Iran women to attend football match for first time in decades

TEHRAN: Thousands of Iranian women fans are to attend a football match freely today for the first time in decades, after FIFA threatened to suspend the country over its controversial male-only policy. The Islamic republic has barred female spectators from football and other stadiums for around 40 years, with clerics arguing they must be shielded from the masculine atmosphere and sight of semi-clad men. World football's governing body FIFA ordered Iran last month to allow women access to stadiums without restriction and in numbers determined by demand for tickets.

The directive came after a fan dubbed "Blue Girl" died after setting herself on fire in fear of being jailed for dressing up as a boy to attend a match. Women were quick to get their hands on tickets to attend Iran's 2022 World Cup qualifier against Cambodia at Tehran's 100,000-capacity Azadi Stadium today. The first batch sold out in less than an hour, and additional seats were also snapped up in short order, state media said.

One of the 3,500 women to have secured a ticket was Raha Poorbakhsh, a football journalist. "I still can't believe this is going

to happen because after all these years of working in this field, watching everything on television, now I can experience everything in person," she told AFP.

'BLUE GIRL'

But Poorbakhsh said she was aware of many other women enthusiasts left without tickets. There have been rare occasions in recent years when Iranian women have been allowed to watch matches, but this time they were free to buy their own tickets, albeit a set number. Using the hashtag #WakeUpFifa, women have taken to social media to demand more tickets. While women have already taken up their entire allocation, only 2,500 men have so far purchased electronic tickets for the more than 70,000 seats available to them, ISNA news agency said.

Those lucky enough to attend will be segregated from men and watched over by 150 female police officers. People in Tehran supported the decision to let women attend. "I would like there to be freedom for women, like men, to go freely and even sit side by side without any restrictions, like other countries," said a woman who gave her name only as Hasti. Nader Fathi, a businessman, said the presence of women could improve the atmosphere. But he said "they will regret it" if they are exposed to "really bad swear words" and "bad behavior".

The bumpy road Iranian women have travelled to gain such access to stadiums has not been without tragedy. Sahar Khodayari died last month after setting herself ablaze outside a court in fear of being jailed for trying to attend a match. Dubbed

"Blue Girl" because of the colors of the club she supported - Esteghlal FC - she had reportedly been detained last year when trying to enter a stadium dressed as a boy.

Her death sparked an outcry, with many calling for Iran to be banned and matches boycotted. The judiciary dismissed reports she had been told she would be jailed. Amnesty International condemned the limited allocation of tickets for women as a "cynical publicity stunt" following her death. "The Iranian authorities should lift all restrictions on women attending football matches, including domestic league games, across the country," it said.

SHADOW OF FIFA

Ahead of Qatar 2022, FIFA has pressed Iran to allow women to attend qualifiers. But Iran denied its decision to allow women into Thursday's match was a result of "foreign pressure". "The presence of #women in stadiums is due to the internal social demands and government's support of those demands," government spokesman Ali Rabiei tweeted. The ban on women in stadiums is not written into law or regulations, but it has been strictly enforced.

Since the 1979 Islamic revolution, women have only rarely had access to stadiums in Iran. About 20 Irish women attended a World Cup qualifier in 2001, and four years later a few dozen Iranian women watched the national team take on Bahrain. In October, as many as 100 "handpicked" Iranian women watched a Bolivia friendly. The day after, the prosecutor general warned there would be no repeat, saying it would "lead to sin". —AFP