

## Sports

## Photo of the Day



Carlos Sainz races during Rally Dakar 2021 from Wadi Ad Dawasir to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. — Photo taken from www.redbullcontentpool.com

# Antetokounmpo propels Bucks over Mavs, James leads Lakers past Pelicans

## T'Wolves star Towns confirms positive COVID-19 case

LOS ANGELES: Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 31 points and had nine rebounds to power the Milwaukee Bucks to a 112-109 victory over Luka Doncic's Dallas Mavericks in a battle between the two early frontrunners for NBA Most Valuable Player honors. Two-time MVP winner Antetokounmpo hit 14-of-21 shots from the floor and Khris Middleton finished with 25 points for the host Bucks, who have won seven of their last eight games.

Doncic shot 12-of-24 from the floor for a team-high 28 points after coming off a 34-point performance in a win over Charlotte two nights earlier. "We showed him bodies. He wasn't able to step back. We made him pass the ball," Antetokounmpo said of Doncic.

After Milwaukee's Brook Lopez missed a free throw with one second left, Doncic launched a desperation two-handed three-point attempt at the buzzer but it hit the backboard and bounced harmlessly away to give Milwaukee the win. "We just stayed with it," said Middleton. "They did a good job rebounding off the glass and made some tough shots but we just stayed with it."

Middleton drained a pair of clutch three-pointers late in the fourth quarter. He also had eight rebounds and six assists. The former second-round draft pick was traded to the Bucks in 2013 from Detroit. "Each year is about getting better and finding ways to make my teammates better. That is what they do for me," said Middleton, who recently donated \$100,000 to the employees at Fiserv Forum who lost their jobs because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Jue Holiday had 16 points and Lopez added 11 points and 11 rebounds for the Bucks, who overcame Antetokounmpo's one-for-10 shooting from the free throw line. Doncic also had 13 assists and Tim Hardaway added 22 points for the Mavericks, who had their four-game winning streak snapped. "We played bad," said Doncic. "But we had a chance to go up and we hung in there."

Antetokounmpo against Doncic wasn't the only marquee matchup on a night when the league had to postpone three games because of a series of coronavirus outbreaks. Four-time NBA champion LeBron James took on former first overall draft pick Zion Williamson and after the slow start the host Lakers rolled to a 112-95 win over the Pelicans. James had 21 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds, Anthony Davis finished with 17 points and a half dozen Lakers finished in double figure scoring.



MILWAUKEE: Giannis Antetokounmpo #34 of the Milwaukee Bucks handles the ball during the game against the Dallas Mavericks on Friday at the Fiserv Forum Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. — AFP

Montrezl Harrell and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope each with 16 points, Germany's Dennis Schroder with 12 and Kyle Kuzma with 11 as the first place Los Angeles won their fifth game in a row.

### New players

"We are playing good basketball right now and we want to continue that," said James. "We are implementing five new guys into our rotation that weren't part of our team last year." Williamson, who returned after a one-game absence due to health protocols, had 21 points and 12 rebounds and Brandon Ingram scored 20 points for the Pelicans, who lost their fifth straight.

sports community.

The company also took this opportunity to highlight the extensive efforts witnessed by KFA president, Sheikh Ahmed Youssef Al-Sabah, and the members of the association, throughout the football season. Their hard work and dedication led to yet another successful outcome witnessed during the closing ceremony of this widely followed championship in Kuwait, added stc.

The Crown Prince Cup stems from the basic values stc abides by. These include promoting fair and positive competition, good sportsmanship, ethical principles, and integrity, values that apply to all aspects of life. The company said that it will continue to support sporting initiatives, especially those that foster the same values that the company stands by. Participating in competitive sports and fitness activities aids in building character, developing morals, and promoting a healthier lifestyle through frequent exercise, a belief that is also encouraged amongst work teams.

In its stride to support the local sports community, stc will continue to back such initiatives, firmly believing in the added value and benefits these could bring to the younger generation. Promoting a healthier and active lifestyle is a priority that should not only be considered towards the younger generation, but also work teams within the company.

stc concluded, "In line with our digital transformation strategy, we aim to continue developing innovative communication solutions and platforms that complement the strength of our 5G networks, serving the

Also, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 33 points and Mike Muscala hit a pair of three-pointers in overtime to lift the Oklahoma City Thunder to a 127-125 win over the Chicago Bulls. The Bulls led by as many as 22 points in the first half before the Thunder rallied to tie it up in the final seconds.

Muscala's three-pointers and Chicago's poor overtime shooting allowed Oklahoma City to win for the first time in six home games this season. Elsewhere, Kawhi Leonard delivered 27 points and six assists as the Los Angeles Clippers cruised to a 138-100 win over the Sacramento Kings.

### Towns tests positive

Minnesota Timberwolves star Karl-Anthony Towns said Friday he had tested positive for COVID-19, vowing to overcome the disease that last year claimed the life of his mother and six other family members. The 25-year-old power forward confirmed news of his positive case in a statement on Twitter, shortly after the NBA confirmed Minnesota's game against Memphis on Friday had been postponed. "Prior to tonight's game, I received yet another awful call that I tested positive for COVID," said Towns. "I pray every day that this nightmare of a virus will subside and I beg everyone to continue to take it seriously by taking all of the necessary precautions. We cannot stop the spread of this virus alone, it must be a group effort by all of us."

In April last year, Towns' mother, Jacqueline Cruz-Towns, died at the age of 58 after contracting COVID-19. Towns father also contracted the disease but recovered. US media reports have said six other members of Towns' extended family had died from coronavirus complications. "I've seen a lot of coffins in the last seven months," Towns said in December before the start of the new NBA season.

"It breaks my heart that my family, particularly my father and sister, continue to suffer from the anxiety that comes along with this diagnosis as we know all too well what the end result could be," Towns said in his statement on Friday. "To my niece and nephew... I promise you I will not end up in a box next to grandma and I will beat this." Towns' positive case comes amid a slew of postponements in the NBA, which opened its 2020-2021 season last month amid a resurgent COVID-19 crisis in the United States. — AFP

entertainment needs of our individual and corporate customers. stc is keen to support and encourage pioneering projects and activities across various sectors, which definitely includes the sports industry."

It is worth mentioning that through its influential and role in the local sports community, stc aims to

## Lazio cruise past city rivals Roma

MILAN: Lazio cruised to a 3-0 victory over city rivals Roma on Friday, equaling their best ever derby victory in Serie A. The win moved Lazio up to seventh place on 31 points, just two behind champions Juventus in fourth. Roma stay third with 34 points, but are six points off leaders AC Milan having also played a game more. Ciro Immobile opened the scoring in the 14th minute for his 12th goal of the season. Luis Alberto, in the 23rd and 67th minutes, scored the other two, both with precise strikes. Roma, who had drawn 2-2 with second-placed Inter Milan last weekend, were rescued from further punishment by goalkeeper Paul Lopez who pulled off a series of fine second-half saves. "This season, it was a bit more important than usual, because we weren't doing as well in Serie A as we wanted," Spanish star Alberto said. "The last three or four games have been much better, we improved a great deal, and we confirmed that in the derby. We showed a winning mentality and want to keep this momentum going."

Friday's game was the first derby for new Roma owner Dan Friedkin, but the performance was desperately familiar. Having lost heavily already this season to top six rivals Napoli (4-0) and Atalanta (4-1), Roma were undone by a far more aggressive Lazio side.—AFP



### Matches on TV

(Local Timings)

#### ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Aston Villa v Everton 15:00  
beIN Sports

Sheffield United v Tottenham Hotspur 17:00  
beIN Sports HD 1

Liverpool v Manchester United 19:30  
beIN Sports HD 1

Manchester City v Crystal Palace 22:15  
beIN Sports

#### ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE

SSC Napoli v ACF Fiorentina 14:30  
beIN Sports HD 1

Crotone v Benevento 17:00  
beIN Sports HD 5

US Sassuolo Calcio v Parma Calcio 1913 17:00  
beIN Sports HD 4

Atalanta v Genoa CFC 20:00  
beIN Sports HD 4

Internazionale Milano v Juventus FC 22:45  
beIN Sports HD 1

#### GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

FC Bayern Munich v SC Freiburg 17:30  
beIN Sports

Eintracht Frankfurt v FC Schalke 04 20:00  
beIN Sports

#### FRENCH LEAGUE

Stade brestois 29 v Stade Rennais 15:00  
beIN Sports HD 6

Lorient v FCO Dijon 17:00  
beIN Sports HD 10

FC Nantes v Racing Club de Lens 17:00  
beIN Sports HD 6

OGC Nice v Bordeaux 17:00  
beIN Sports HD 8

RC Strasbourg v Saint Etienne 17:00  
beIN Sports HD 9

LOSC Lille v Stade Reims 19:00  
beIN Sports HD 6

Olympique Lyonnais v FC Metz 23:00  
beIN Sports HD 6

#### SPANISH SUPER CUP

FC Barcelona v Athletic de Bilbao 23:00  
KSA Sports 1 HD

## stc celebrates with Crown Prince Cup champions

KUWAIT: stc, the official sponsor of the initiatives organized by the Kuwait Football Association (KFA) including premier championships, celebrated the final match of the most exclusive championship in Kuwait. stc attended the closing ceremony of the Crown Prince Cup at Jaber Al-Ahmad International Stadium, held under the patronage of HH Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Crown Prince of Kuwait, where Kuwait Sporting Club were announced as the official champions of the cup.

The Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi (attending on behalf of HH the Crown Prince of Kuwait), CEO of stc, engineer Maziad Bin Nasser Alharbi, and president of KFA, Sheikh Ahmed Youssef Al-Sabah, crowned Kuwait Sporting Club as champions after winning against Qadsia Sporting Club with a score of 2-1 in favor of the winners.

stc released a statement expressing its sense of joy in the solid partnership it has built over the years with the KFA. In its role as an ongoing supporter, stc indicated that the Crown Prince Cup is a unique annual event that holds a special weight in the local

actively be engaged in activities that encourage individuals of all ages and nationalities to adopt better lifestyle choices. This dynamic runs parallel to one of the company's primary social responsibility pillars, promoting health awareness and exercising regularly to maintain a balanced active lifestyle.



KUWAIT: Kuwait Club players celebrate with the championship trophy.