

## KHK Boxing, WBC meet to further enhance the sport in region

TDI | Manama

KHK Boxing, led by HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, and the legendary boxing organization WBC have made history earlier this year. They introduced the first-ever Arab World Boxing Championship, which will serve to further enhance the reputation of boxing in the region, and now talks have begun to further collaboration between the two sports giants.

Mauricio Sulaiman, WBC president, and Luciano "Chano" Planas, WBC Ambassador in Spain, met with KHK CEO Mohammed Shahid, as the parties discussed ways of developing the sport of boxing in the region and beyond.

The World Boxing Council has extensive knowledge of going to new markets and properly setting boxing as a successful entertainment tool and a respectable sport.

On the other hand, KHK is known to have taken mixed martial arts to the next level

in the region and beyond, and possesses the highest level of know-how regarding the development of a sport. From grassroots development, with the KHK MMA gym, to the professionals, with BRAVE Combat Federation, KHK has been able to revolutionize the industry at all levels.

Sulaiman made it a point to thank HH Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa for his continued interest in the growth of boxing in the region and beyond and is hopeful that the partnership will bring much success for the sport in the Middle East.

The World Boxing Council is one of the premier boxing organizations worldwide and has recognized as world champions legendary figures such as Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier, Sugar Ray Leonard, Floyd Mayweather Jr, Roy Jones Jr, Julio Cezar Chavez, as well as starfighters from today, like Canelo Álvarez, Manny Pacquiao, Tyson Fury, and Vasyl Lomachenko.

## Sibley, Burns help England cut into Windies lead by lunch

Reuters | London

Gritty knocks from openers Dom Sibley and Rory Burns helped England reduce West Indies' lead to 35 as the hosts reached 79 for one at lunch on the fourth day of the first test at Southampton's Ageas Bowl.

Resuming their second innings on 15-0, Sibley and Burns saw off a testing opening burst from West Indies pacers Shannon Gabriel and Kemar Roach before settling into their stride.

Burns, the more aggressive of the two openers, brought up England's 50 in the 20th over with a crisp cut through backward point off the bowling of West Indies skipper Jason Holder.

However, he had departed for 42 shortly before lunch,



England's Dom Sibley in action

slicing a short-pitched delivery from Roston Chase straight to John Campbell at backward point and bringing an end to England's longest opening partnership since the start of 2017.

Joe Denly (one not out) survived a testing spell from Alzarri Joseph and, alongside Sibley (31 not out), saw England through to lunch.

# Rain king Hami storms to Styrian GP pole

● Lewis Hamilton lived up to his 'rain master' reputation to put his Mercedes on pole position for the first Styrian Grand Prix

AFP | Spielberg

Defending six-time world champion Lewis Hamilton delivered one of his greatest qualifying performances in treacherous rain-swept conditions yesterday when he stormed to pole position for the Styrian Grand Prix.

The Mercedes driver, who struggled in practice on Friday, bounced back to his best with a fastest lap in one minute and 19.273 seconds, outpacing nearest rival Max Verstappen of Red Bull by a stunning 1.2 seconds.

His performance confirmed his enduring class on a day when heavy rainstorms had delayed the session by 45 minutes and forced the cancellation of third practice.

It was his third pole success at the Red Bull Ring circuit, the 89th of his career and confirmed his reputation as a great driver in the wettest conditions.

"What a tricky day," said Hamilton.

"It was so difficult for all of us with this weather and some of the time you can't see where you are going, but I loved it - though I did have a big aquaplane and had my heart in my mouth."

Ferrari-bound Carlos Sainz was third for McLaren ahead of Valtteri Bottas, winner of last Sunday's season-opening Austrian Grand Prix at the same circuit, in the second Mercedes, Esteban Ocon of Renault and Lando Norris in the second McLaren.



Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton steers his car during the qualifying

Norris, however, will drop three places on the grid after taking a penalty on Friday for ignoring yellow flags in opening practice.

That will elevate Alex Albon, who was seventh in the second Red Bull, Pierre Gasly of Alpha Tauri and Daniel Ricciardo, ninth in the second Renault, but leave Sebastian Vettel 10th in the leading Ferrari on another difficult day for the Italian team.

### 'I can't see a thing'

His team-mate Charles Leclerc qualified 11th.

After a 45-minute delay, Q1 began with Vettel first out for Ferrari.

Both the four-time champion and Bottas were promptly told that the rain would intensify, making it vital to record a "banker" lap, in case the conditions deteriorated seriously.

"I can't see a thing," said Verstappen as Vettel clocked a time soon trimmed by his rivals, including George Russell of Williams, the best lap time descending rapidly as plumes of spray lifted water off the asphalt.

Having been trapped 19th, Hamilton jumped to the top



The pole was a record-extending 89th of Hamilton's F1 career

to be replaced by Leclerc and then Bottas and Verstappen in succession as others, including Ocon and Grosjean, slithered off and recovered.

After his travails in Friday's practice, Hamilton was sensational.

"Just leave me to it," he told his engineer on team radio as he pulled clear before Antonio Giovinazzi crashed at Turn 10, recovered and then parked his Alfa Romeo.

His exit brought red flags out with seconds remaining, a move that meant early elimination for both the Italian and his team-mate Kimi Raikkonen along with Sergio Perez of Racing Point, Williams rookie Nicholas Latifi and Romain Grosjean

of Haas.

Perez had been fastest in opening free practice on Friday morning.

All this meant Russell delivered Williams' first Q2 appearance since the 2018 Brazilian Grand Prix, a welcome tonic for the struggling former champions.

Vettel was first out for Q2, but without the pace to worry the front-runners as Verstappen duelled with Hamilton and both Ferraris struggled, Leclerc failing to make the top-ten cut.

The Monegasque qualified 11th one place ahead of the remarkable Russell, claiming his career-best starting spot, ahead of Lance Stroll's Racing Point, Daniil Kvyat of Alpha Tauri and Kevin Magnussen of Haas.

Verstappen led the way in the final shootout.

"There's a lot more water down," warned Hamilton as the Dutchman clocked 1:21.800 to set the pace, his extreme wet tyres visibly shedding water.

Hamilton then took control with a surge of rapid laps before the Dutchman responded but spun off in a final flurry of late high-speed action.

## Liverpool's record bid hit by Burnley draw, Norwich relegated

AFP | London

Liverpool's bid to set a new Premier League points record was rocked by a 1-1 draw against Burnley, while Norwich were relegated as Michail Antonio's four-goal blitz fired West Ham to a thumping win yesterday.

Jürgen Klopp's side are chasing the record total of 100 points set by Manchester City in 2018, but the champions have no margin for error after being held at Anfield for the first time this season.

They have 93 points and need to win their remaining three matches against Arsenal, Chelsea and Newcastle to break City's record.

They would tie the 100-point mark if they win two and draw one of those matches.

"For moments it was Liverpool against (Nick) Pope. We did everything right and he made saves but we should have scored



Virgil van Dijk fails to block Jay Rodriguez's goalbound

more, that's on us," Klopp said.

"We didn't close the game and they took their moment. We were angry with the referee but we have to criticise ourselves first for not finishing the game.

"The team do it right 99 percent of the time but I will never stop criticising them."

Liverpool took the lead when Andrew Robertson met

Fabinho's lofted pass with a powerful header in the 34th minute.

But they were made to pay for missed chances as Burnley equalised in the 69th minute.

Liverpool were unhinged by a long free-kick into their area as James Tarkowski's header found Jay Rodriguez, who drilled a superb low strike past Alisson

"We wanted to beat the odds again but when the dust settles the outcome is more or less what was expected. It doesn't take anything away from the fact that we are disappointed"

DANIEL FARKE

NORWICH CITY MANAGER

Becker.

Johann Berg Gudmundsson almost won it for Burnley when he hit the bar in the final minutes.

It was the first time Liverpool had failed to win a home league game since January 2019.

### Norwich relegated

At Carrow Road, a seventh successive league defeat condemned Norwich to relegation

as Antonio's ruthless display boosted West Ham's own survival bid after a 4-0 victory.

Daniel Farke's side are 13 points from safety with only three games left, meaning they are certain to make an immediate return to the Championship after last season's promotion campaign.

The Canaries have set an unwanted record with a fifth Premier League relegation after going down on four previous occasions in 1995, 2005, 2014 and 2016.

"We wanted to beat the odds again but when the dust settles the outcome is more or less what was expected. It doesn't take anything away from the fact that we are disappointed," Farke said.

"From the first day after promotion our chances to survive were perhaps 5 percent so in 19 out of 20 cases you will go down. If you have luck and no injuries then you have a chance.

## Mourinho confident he can bring silverware to Spurs

Reuters | London

Tottenham Hotspur manager Jose Mourinho is confident that he can deliver trophies at the Premier League club if he is given time like Jürgen Klopp at champions Liverpool.

Mourinho, who took over from the sacked Mauricio Pochettino in November, is used to battling for silverware at his previous clubs but his ninth-placed Tottenham are struggling to qualify for Europe this season.

But the Portuguese pointed to Klopp, who joined Liverpool in 2015 and guided them to the Champions League, UEFA Super Cup and Club World Cup last year before ending their 30-year wait for an English league crown this season.