

SPORTS
sports

Ajax stun Juventus

Ajax produced a second straight famous Champions League victory Ronaldo's Juventus to reach semis

● **Matthijs de Ligt struck the decisive header for Ajax to overcome Juventus**

AFP | Paris

Ajax stunned Juventus to reach the Champions League semi-finals for the first time since 1997 as Matthijs de Ligt's thumping second-half header secured a 2-1 second-leg victory in the last eight in Turin on Tuesday.

Cristiano Ronaldo, bidding for his sixth Champions League title, scored a 28th-minute header to put Juve ahead after a 1-1 first-leg draw, but Donny van de Beek levelled for Ajax before half-time.

Teenage centre-back De Ligt struck midway through the second period, though, to seal a 3-2 aggregate win and set up a last-four clash with either Manchester City or Tottenham.

The young Dutch side had already eliminated three-time defending champions Real Madrid en route to the quarters, overturning a 2-1 home defeat against the Spanish side with a memorable 4-1 victory at the Santiago Bernabeu.

"It's an incredible evening for Ajax and its players and also for Dutch football," said coach Erik ten Hag.

"Once again we eliminated the favourites.

"We said before we were not the favourites but with our philosophy we can go further, we've



Ajax's Matthijs de Ligt rises high for the winning goal against Juventus

again surpassed our limits."

Juventus had been looking to reach the Champions League semi-finals for the third time in the past five seasons.

But Ronaldo, who scored an away goal last week with a diving header in Amsterdam, was Juve's only weapon against the impressive Dutch side.

The 34-year-old was signed for 100 million euros (\$117 million) last summer from Real Madrid in a bid to win the European trophy for the first time since 1996, when they beat Ajax in the final.

"Ajax deserved to qualify," said Juve coach Massimiliano Allegri.

"We could have done better, but Ajax aren't coming out of



Ajax are into the Champions League semi-finals for the first time since 1997

nowhere, they were Europa League finalists two years ago and scored five goals against Real.

"It's not our worst elimination. We had big expectations, but the Champions League is a strange competition. You have

to arrive in peak condition.

"In the last month we have been struggling with several injuries. Even tonight we were missing important players."

Allegri had been forced to reshuffle his side because of injuries, with Paulo Dybala returning in place of the injured Mario Mandzukic, while captain Giorgio Chiellini was also sidelined.

Ajax's defence took a hit when Noussair Mazraoui, who had replaced the suspended Nicolas Tagliafico, limped off on 11 minutes with an ankle injury, with Daley Sinkgraven coming on.

Ajax goalkeeper Andre Onana dived to keep out a scorching Dybala half-volley in the 20th minute.

Eldarov says losing at Brave 23 'is not an option'



Eldar Eldarov

AFP | Munich

Super Lightweight title contender Eldar Eldarov will look to become the first Bahraini fighter to win a world championship when he meets Mounir Lazzez, from Tunisia, in the co-main event of Brave 23: Pride and Honour, which takes place in Amman, Jordan, this Friday.

For Eldarov, the chance to make history also by becoming the first-ever world champion in the newly-formed weight division is too good to let it slide. He claims that losing is "not an option" and that someone will tap out "and it's not going to be me".

"This is the biggest fight of my career. I won't fight for myself. I'll fight for my family, for my team, and for my people. Losing is not an option for me. I know someone will tap out and it's not going to be me", guarantees Eldar, who will look to increase even more his fanbase with the win over Lazzez.

"I know that people support Mounir a lot, he has a good fanbase. His fans have come to my social media profiles af-

"This is the biggest fight of my career. I won't fight for myself. I'll fight for my family, for my team, and for my people. Losing is not an option for me. I know someone will tap out and it's not going to be me

ELDAR ELDAROV

ter our fight was announced. That's good. Usually, when you beat someone with a big fanbase, they become your fans, so this is my point (laughs)".

Brave 23: Pride and Honour will be broadcast by Abu Dhabi Sports. The historic event will feature three title fights. Aside from Eldarov x Lazzez, Welterweight champion Jarrah Al-Selawe will defend his title against undefeated contender Abdoul Abdouraguimov, while Lightweight titleholder Abdul-Kareem Al-Selwady will look to maintain his crown against striker Luan Santiago.

BTA to conduct junior tennis camp

TDT | Manama

From Sunday 21st to Tuesday 23rd April, Bahrain Tennis Academy (BTA) will be running a three-day camp for children at the Dilmun Club, Saar.

Children 5-8 years-of-age can join the sessions that will be held from 4:30-6:00pm each day.

The program will include training of strokes and footwork as well as fun games.

Neuer dismisses retirement rumours

AFP | Berlin

Injured Bayern Munich goalkeeper Manuel Neuer yesterday quashed rumours of his imminent retirement and says he wants to return in time to face RB Leipzig on the penultimate day of the Bundesliga season.

"It is difficult to say when I will be back but I think Leipzig is a realistic target," he said.

Lanka Lions edge BOC

TDT | Manama

Lanka Lions beat BOC by 7 wickets in a CBA Division B 25 overs league match.

Toss was won by BOC who elected to bat first. Thuwan took four wickets in his bowling spell that helped Lions to restrict BOC for 110 runs while Haqib (29) became the top scorer for BOC.

Chasing the target, Lion's opener Surange (53) scored an unbeaten half century that helped Lions to reach the target in 18th over and win the match by 7 wickets.

Brief Score: Lanka Lions 111/3 in 17.5 overs (Suranga 53, Aqib 2/6) beat BOC 110/10 (Haqib 29, Thuwan 4/14, Imesh 2/13) by 7 wickets

Public Security Yellow 181/5 in 22.1 overs (Raza 47, Mohsin 43, Aroon 3/22) beat Indian Rising Stars 179/10 (Prashanth 68, Ummar 4/27) by 5 wickets

Shifa Aljazeera 131/4 in 17.4 overs (Suhail 55, Manoj 3/4) beat RKCT 130/8 (Jayraj 37, Anto 2/20) by 6 wickets
Asgharali 128/3 in 20.2 overs

(Tahmoor 38, Atif 31) beat Public Security Red 123/10 (Kashif 22, Adnan 3/34) by 7 wickets

CBA Division C 25 overs league

Lulu 116/2 in 17 overs (Nishad 52, Sajith 23) beat SNCs Transfast 110/10 (Sreekumar 23, Anoop 3/14) by 8 wickets

Rebel II 134/7 in 22.3 overs (Shanu 35, Muzammil 25, Ahad 3/22) beat Waqas Pak 133/10 (Shahbaz 50, Sajjad 4/28) by 3 wickets

Bassli Tigers 159/9 in 25 overs (Rashid 41, Numair 31, Akhil 3/37) beat Masters 138/10 (Akhil 42) by 21 runs

Pak CC 158/8 in 23 overs (Awais 42, Zaman 34, Asif 3/25) beat lantern Z XI 155/10 (Asif 30, Zaman 5/22) by 2 wickets

Karnataka Royals 162/7 in 25 overs (Puneeth 53, Naven 48, Fawad 3/28) beat Titans 98/10 (Jishad 25, Sagar 2/11) by 64 runs

Euro Bahrain 187/5 in 25 overs (Asim 85, Ishfaq 37) beat Smile Mart 179/10 (Zeeshan 45, Wasim 47, Ashfaq 4/40) by 8 runs

Golden Tulip rally past Le Meridien



Ritz Carlton A Team after winning their match

TDT | Manama

Le Meridien lost to Golden Tulip by four runs in the eighth Inter Hotel Charity Cricket Tournament match held on Tuesday. Ali was declared man of the match.

Scores
Le Meridien (68/3 in 6 overs) lost to Golden Tulip (72 for all

out in 6 overs) by 04 runs.

Match # 2:

Ritz Carlton A (75/3 in 6 overs) won from Sheraton Hotel (18/6 in 3.5 overs) by 57 runs.

Man of the match: Farrukh Faqrooq

Match # 3:

Royal Phoenicia (56/6 in 6 overs) lost to Gulf Hotel (62/2 in 4.4 overs) by 4 wickets.

Man of the Match: Justin

Match # 4:

Westin Hotel (50/6 in 6 overs) lost to Wyndham Grand (66/4 in 6 overs) by 16 runs.

Man of the Match: Danial

Match # 5:

Park Regis (44/4 in 6 overs) lost to Regency Intercontinental (46/2 in 2 overs) by 04 wickets.

Man of the Match: Zeeshan