

Bournemouth sack manager Parker after Liverpool thrashing

● Parker fired after three successive losses

● Bournemouth fourth-bottom with three points

● First team coach O'Neil in interim charge

Reuters

Bournemouth manager Scott Parker was sacked by the newly-promoted Premier League club on Tuesday, three days after they were thumped 9-0 at Liverpool for their third straight defeat.

The struggling south-coast club are fourth from bottom of the standings with three points from four games.

"I would like to place on record my gratitude to Scott and his team for their efforts during

their time with us," the club's owner, Maxim Demin, said in statement.

"However, in order for us to keep progressing as a team and a club as a whole, it is unconditional that we are aligned in our strategy to run the club sustainably."

Bournemouth said their search for a new manager would begin immediately and first team coach Gary O'Neil would take over in the interim. They host Wolverhampton Wanderers today.

Demin's comments appear to be a response to Parker's post-match interview at Anfield after their Premier League record-equalling defeat. Parker said he was "not surprised" at the result and that he needed some new signings to strengthen his side, who finished runners-up in the second-tier Championship last season.

"It doesn't surprise me. This is currently where it is at this moment in time. The players need help. Today proved too big a challenge. The levels were far too big," the 41-year-old said after Saturday's defeat.

"We've got a decision to make as a club. There will be days like this. Time will tell. It's a huge disappointment, a real humbling experience.

"We have some days where hopefully we can get some help in and support and help the current team, who came up from the Championship," he added.

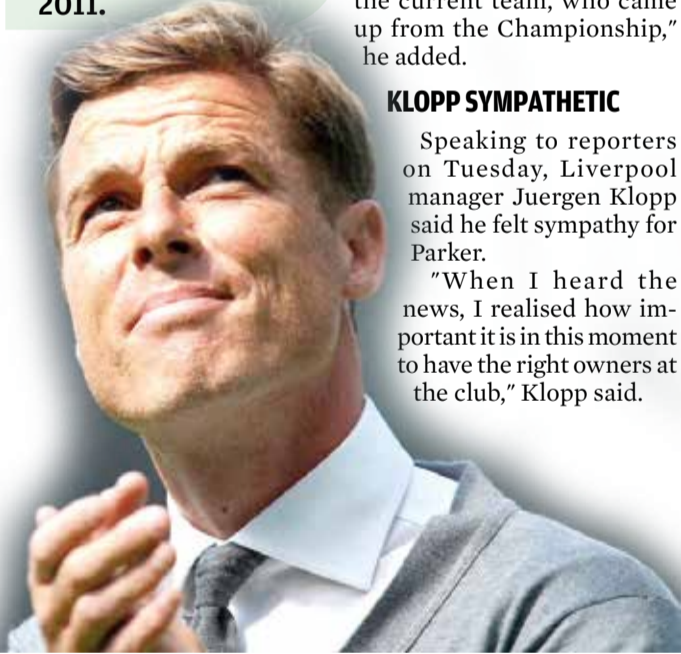
KLOPP SYMPATHETIC

Speaking to reporters on Tuesday, Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said he felt sympathy for Parker.

"When I heard the news, I realised how important it is in this moment to have the right owners at the club," Klopp said.



Bournemouth are owned by Russian-born British businessman Demin who in 2019 assumed full ownership of the club after he had acquired an initial stake in 2011.



Gopichand's academy expands to Bahrain

TDI | Dubai

Gulf Badminton Academy is expanding to Bahrain through a strategic partnership with the Indian club Bahrain.

The move forms part of a plan by GBA, under the mentorship of former All England Champion Pullela Gopichand, to open multiple academies in and around their Dubai hub and the Gulf countries.

The Academy comes to Bahrain after testing its success in five centres for the past eight months with around 100 kids and adults in Dubai.

Founder of the world's no 1 Badminton League -Premier Badminton League- Prasad Mangipudi is a co-founder of GBA.

"We are committed to providing extensive in-person



Pullela Gopichand

training, online resources, and ongoing support to help launch and grow the Badminton sport in the Arab world," said Gopichand, Chairman of Gulf Badminton Academy, UAE.

"The main engine behind the concept of GBA is Gopichand,

who has incredible credentials not only as a great sportsman but also as a great coach, spending every moment of his career promoting the sport of badminton through his academy, which has produced world-class talent," said Thoffik Valiyakath, Managing Director of GBA.

The coaches of GBA Bahrain will get trained under Gopichand at his academy in Hyderabad.

Senior coaches from Pullela Gopichand Badminton Academy (PGBA) will regularly visit to provide advanced skills.

Students of GBA, Bahrain, will have the opportunity to train at GBA centre of Excellence in Dubai as well as Pullela Gopichand Academy in Hyderabad. Students with champion potential could move to PGBA, Hyderabad.

Najibullah, Ibrahim stun Bangladesh

Sportstar

Afghanistan beats Bangladesh by seven wickets in Sharjah yesterday to advance to the Super 4 stage of the Asia Cup as the topper of Group B. It's now a virtual knockout for second place as Bangladesh takes on Sri Lanka in Dubai today.

Chasing 128, Afghanistan trudged to 48 for the loss of two wickets in 10 overs. Openers Hazratullah Zazai and Rahmanullah Gurbaz fell for 23 and 11, respectively, as Bangladesh applied the squeeze in the first half. Mohammad Saifuddin trapped Mohammad Nabi leg before shortly after.

But with Afghanistan needing 66 from 42 balls, Ibrahim Zadran (42, 41b, 4x4) and Najibullah Zadran (43, 17b, 1x4, 6x6) brought out the big hits in an enterprising 69-run stand.



Najibullah Zadran and Ibrahim Zadran produced a stunning display with the bat and helped Afghanistan beat Bangladesh in the Asia Cup 2022 Group B match in Sharjah.

The two blasted 39 in the 17th and 18th over combined, with a flurry of boundaries, eventually getting over the line with nine balls to spare.

Batting first on a slowish surface, Bangladesh lost Mohammad Naim to Mujeeb in the second over, clean bowled off a

carrom ball. Mujeeb then had Anamul Haque out lbw in his second over before clean bowling skipper Shakib Al Hasan, playing his 100th T20I, in his third consecutive over. Bangladesh was 3 for 28 after the PowerPlay, with Mujeeb's first spell reading 3-0-9-3.

Manchester United agree deal to sign winger Antony from Ajax

Reuters

Manchester United have reached an agreement to sign Brazil winger Antony from Ajax Amsterdam, the Premier League club said in a statement yesterday.

Antony, who played under United manager Erik ten Hag at Ajax, registered 12 goals and 10 assists in 33 games in all competitions as the Dutch club won a third straight Eredivisie title and made the last 16 in the Champions League last term.

Financial details of the deal were not disclosed but British media reported that it would be worth an initial 80.75 million pounds (\$94.63 million), with a further 4.25 million pounds in add-ons for the 22-year-old.

Antony joined Amsterdam from Sao Paulo in February 2020 and played more than 80 times for Ajax, scoring 25 goals in total. He has also been capped nine times by Brazil since his debut in 2021, scoring twice.

He will become United's fifth close-season signing following the arrivals of Lisandro Martinez, Tyrell Malacia, Christian Eriksen and Casemiro.

Belarusian defector Tsimanouskaya says she has taken Polish citizenship

Reuters

Athlete Krystsina Tsimanouskaya, who defected from Belarus during the 2021 Olympic Games in Tokyo, has said in an Instagram post that she had been awarded Polish citizenship.

"Today I give you my word that I will try 100% to show my full potential, and even if I stand on the podium as a Pole, know that this medal will be for all Belarusians and for our freedom. Long live Belarus! Thank you Poland," she wrote.

Tsimanouskaya took refuge in Poland when she was kicked out of the Olympics a year ago after a dispute with her coaches.

Shock from Spain: "Rafael Nadal was secretly dating Shakira!"

TDI | agencies

From Spain comes an indiscretion that has real hype: Rafael Nadal and Shakira have had a secret relationship. As reported by the Spanish paparazzo, Jordi Martin, the singer and the tennis player began their clandestine dating back in 2009, when the two met for the Gypsy video clip. The video for one of Shakira's best-known songs involved exchanging sensual looks and laughter, but it seems like it was

more than just script requirements. As reported by Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera, the paparazzo explained that the two had an intense love affair when the video of the song was shot.

At the time, rumors reported that Shakira was dating Alejandro Sanz, a well-known Spanish singer. On the other hand, the tennis player was in a difficult situation: at the time, Nadal was already romantically linked to Mary Perello, whom he met in 2005 at school.

The news is simply incredible, but the rumors of a possible betrayal come at a time not favorable to Rafael Nadal: the Spaniard is focused on the US Open.

Nadal is competing at the US Open for the first time since winning his fourth title at Flushing Meadows in 2019.

First round - Arthur Ashe Stadium

R. Hijikata
2 R. Nadal

With the victory of the first two Grand Slam titles of the year, the world number three is looking for title number 23, which would make him the player with the most Grand Slam titles in history, on a par with Serena Williams.

To reach the final victory, Nadal has a series of obstacles to overcome: after the first round against the Australian Hijikata, the Italian Fabio Fognini could await him in the second match at Flushing Meadows. The Italian is one of the few players to have reassembled the Iberian champion in a best-of-five match, after falling behind by two sets.

If he overcomes the danger of the quarter-finals, where Rublev and Norrie orbit, there could be the all-Spanish semifinal: Carlos Alcaraz could be waiting for him. In a hypothetical final, however, the card says that Daniil Medvedev could be back, as in the last act of the last edition of the Australian Open.

