



Neymar scored a hattrick as Brazil thumped Peru 4-2 in a World Cup qualifier on Tuesday. The treble took the 28-year-old to 64 goals for Brazil, past Ronaldo and 13 shy of Pele's all-time record. (Bottom) Meanwhile, Lionel Messi was instrumental as Argentina beat Bolivia 2-1 in La Paz, the Albiceleste's first win away to Bolivia in 15 years, with goals coming from Lautaro Martinez and Joaquin Correa. PHOTO: REUTERS/TWITTER

# 'Neymar is the bow and arrow'

Argentina conquer La Paz; Uruguay beaten

AGENCIES

Brazil coach Tite hailed Neymar and said the Brazil star was only getting better after the forward moved past Ronaldo on the nation's goalscoring list.

Neymar scored a hattrick as Brazil recorded a hard-fought 4-2 win over Peru in World Cup qualifying on Tuesday. With 64 international goals, he moved past Ronaldo (62), with only Pele (77) having scored more times for Brazil than the 28-year-old.

Tite was full of praise for Neymar, who netted two penalties in the win over a 10-man Peru.

"Each historic moments of the season, each generation, it has its own values," the Brazil coach told a news conference, via Globo. "It has Ronaldo, extraordinary phenomenon. Rivaldo, Romario, Bebeto, each one in his own moment. It is unfair to make comparisons.

"What I can say is that Neymar has this unpredictability. He is a bow and arrow. He is the player for the assist and the finish too, better and better with an increasing degree of maturity."

Brazil trailed twice against Peru as Andre Carrillo and Renato Tapia scored, only for their efforts to be cancelled out by Neymar and Richarlison respectively.

Neymar scored another spot-kick in the 83rd minute before sealing the win, and completing his hattrick, in additional time to give Tite's men a second win in as



many qualifiers.

## ARGENTINA BREAK BOLIVIA JINX

A late goal from Joaquin Correa helped Argentina come from behind to beat Bolivia 2-1 on Tuesday and maintain their 100 percent record in the South American World Cup qualifiers.

Bolivia took the lead after 24 minutes when captain Marcelo Martins rose unmarked to head home a cross from the left.

However, Argentina, who beat visitors Ecuador 1-0 in their opener last week, equalised seconds before halftime when a clearance from defender Jose Maria Carrasco hit Lautaro Martinez just yards from goal and flew into the net.

Correa then got Argentina's winner with a sweet left-foot strike 11 minutes from the final whistle as Bolivia suffered another defeat following their 5-0 thrashing away to Brazil last week.

The result was Argentina's ninth game unbeaten under coach Lionel Scaloni and their first win in Bolivia since 2005.

It came in spite of their evident troubles with the thin air, with the game being played at high altitude in La Paz, and some of their players took gulps of oxygen at the side of the pitch during a busy second half. Martinez could have had a hattrick but scooped one chance over the bar and had another well saved by the Bolivian keeper.

"We knew what this game meant to us because of its history," the Inter Milan striker said. "We're not going to deny that it's difficult to play here. I think this team showed lots of heart and lots of brains. We're very happy."

Lionel Messi was another outstanding performer for the visitors, although the Barcelona forward played a deeper role than usual and was more of a creator



than taker of chances.

## URUGUAY HAMMERED, FALCAO SALVAGES DRAW

In Ecuador, the home side recovered from that opening day loss to Argentina to hammer Uruguay 4-2.

Luis Suarez got two goals back for Uruguay in the dying minutes, both of them from the spot, to put a more respective sheen on the scoreline.

Meanwhile, Radamel Falcao scored an injury time equaliser as Colombia salvaged a point in a 2-2 draw in Chile.

Gaston Gimenez scored a late winner before goalkeeper Anthony Silva saved a penalty from Yangel Herrera as Paraguay won 1-0 in Venezuela.

The top four sides in the 10-team South American group qualify directly for Qatar 2022 and the fifth-placed side goes into an inter-regional playoff.

## Barca, Real to meet on October 24

AFP, Madrid

The first Clasico of the season, between Barcelona and Real Madrid, will be played on October 24, La Liga said on Tuesday.

The match was originally pencilled in for the 25th, when the majority of games in the seventh round of the Liga season will be played. It will be behind closed doors at the Camp Nou.

Several first team players from both clubs are on international duty with their national outfits.

When they return this week, they will face two fixtures before the Clásico on 24 October.

Real Madrid face Cadiz in the league on Saturday, 17 October, before their opening Champions League game on Wednesday, 21 October against Shakhtar Donetsk.

Barcelona, meanwhile, travel to Madrid to face Getafe on 17 October, before hosting Hungarian outfit Ferencváros on Tuesday, 20 October.

That means that Ronald Koeman's side will have one day extra to prepare for the all-important Clásico that weekend.

Real Madrid currently sit top of the LaLiga table with 10 points after four games while Barcelona are in fifth with seven points.



## Djokovic seeks solace at Bosnian pyramids

AFP, Sarajevo

Novak Djokovic visited a Bosnian 'pyramid park' on Tuesday to benefit from the site's purported healing powers and miracle cures, 48 hours after his demolition by Rafael Nadal in the French Open final.

The Serbian world number one is known for unorthodox and sometimes controversial new-age spiritual views and practices.

And two days after being swept aside 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 at Roland Garros he made a trip to Visko's Valley of the Pyramids and its 25,000-year-old tunnels beneath whose "energy" is claimed to bring about miracle cures.

Although some hills in the region resemble a pyramid shape, the European Association of Archaeologists debunked the claims as pseudo-science over a decade ago.

"I would invite all athletes to come here to spend time in the tunnels, which are very beneficial for the increase of oxygen in the lungs," he told public TV station FTV.

"It has a direct effect on regeneration, on recovery, which is very important for athletes," he said.

According to local media, visitors to the pyramid park have increased since Djokovic's earlier visit in July after he and his wife contracted Covid-19 following a tennis tournament Djokovic organised in the Balkans.

"If there is paradise on earth, then it is here," the Serbian player said at the time.

## Two shooters to see action in online competition

SPORTS REPORTER



While the world's top shooters transformed their living rooms into makeshift ranges and participated in newly-

fashioned online competitions in the early days of the coronavirus pandemic in late April, Bangladeshi shooters sat idle due to an internal conflict between the Bangladesh Shooting Sports Federation (BSSF) president and secretary general.

The online competitions, conceptualised by former Indian rifle shooter Shimon Sharif, kept international shooters in business, making the sport a rarity as other disciplines had shut shop.

Now, two Bangladesh shooters are set to gather that experience for the first time on October 17, thanks to the BSSF ad-hoc committee, which arranged an online shooting

competition named after Sheikh Russel. Seven countries -- India, Pakistan, Bhutan, Japan, South Korea, Indonesia and Bangladesh -- will participate.

Two shooters -- one male and one female -- from each country will take part in 10m Air Rifle events separately. They will perform in the physical presence of one jury member and their performance will be monitored online through cameras. There will not be a final round; instead, the qualification round consisting of 60 shots will be considered the final round.

"Any participant can use his personal range but he/she must be accompanied by an ISSF jury member, who will send the scores for compilation as the whole competition will be monitored," said BSSF member Mustaque Waide, adding that Bangladeshi shooters

would use the Gulshan Shooting Complex range.

"We have arranged this tournament to mark the birthday of Sheikh Russel. Besides, such online competitions are happening all over the world. The new committee is trying to bring something new in shooting in a bid to make it functional as the shooters have been out of action for a long period," said Waide, also a former BSSF chief operating officer.

While most local shooters are still out of action, Abdullah Hel Baki, Risalatul Islam, Syeda Atkia Hasan Disha, Umme Jakia Sultana Tumpa -- returned to training last month to ensure their Tokyo scholarships from the Olympic committee. Two of them will represent Bangladesh after going through three competitions for selection.

So far, Baki and Tumpa are ahead

of Risalatul and Disha at the end of the second competition held on Thursday. The final round will take place on Saturday, just a day before the start of the online competition.

"Today Baki scored better (624.9) than he did in his first competition (622.3) while Tumpa has done better than Disha in the first two competitions. Everything will be finalised on Saturday," said coach Golam Shafuiddin Khan. "As they were out of action for a long time, they are now having trouble with the triggers of rifles. They need time to return to their normal performance."

Shafuiddin believes participating in the online competition will be a new experience for the shooters and that they will also develop the requisite temperament for competitions through those experiences.

## Ronaldo 'doing fine', but doubtful for Barca clash

AGENCIES

Portugal boss Fernando Santos says Cristiano Ronaldo is 'doing fine' after testing positive for coronavirus and has not shown any symptoms of the virus.

The 35-year-old Juventus forward was due to face Sweden on Wednesday night in the Uefa Nations League but has been forced to self-isolate in the team hotel after his latest coronavirus test came back positive.

Despite mingling with his teammates for the past week, the rest of the squad have all tested negative and will be allowed to take part in the match against Sweden as planned.

Ronaldo has been able to watch training from his hotel room, even shouting instructions down to the players, and Santos says the former Real Madrid star is disappointed he will not be able to play.

"The plan is the same. But the dynamics are different. Cristiano has his own characteristics. No team can be better without the best player in the world but this team has already demonstrated that collectively it has the capacity to tackle the situation.

"He is managing the situation very well. He is in the room, saying he wants to play, he talks to us from the balcony.

"He is completely asymptomatic, he is okay, he doesn't even know what happened to him."

Juventus defender Giorgio Chiellini



said he had spoken to Ronaldo. "He's fine and was sunbathing, he'll be back when he's ready," he reported.

It is also a blow for Juventus, as the health protocol in force for Serie A say Ronaldo must self-isolate for 10 days and then record a negative test before he can resume playing.

Ronaldo is also in doubt for Juventus's marquee Champions League clash with Barcelona on Oct 28, which was set to pit Ronaldo against his old rival Lionel Messi.

As per UEFA rules, Ronaldo must return a negative test seven days prior to any match, meaning he must return a negative test in the next seven days.



The first two games of the ongoing three-team BCB President's Cup produced low scores, with none of the sides being able to cross the 200-run mark. With the pacers dominating the fifty-over competition, everyone will be looking at the batsmen for a response. Experienced batsman Mushfiquur Rahim, who missed out in the first game after being dismissed for just one, will be eager to make a statement with the bat for his side. Having won the first game, Najmul XI will today take on Tamim XI, who lost their opening game after being bundled out for just 103. PHOTO: STAR



Despite enjoying only 28 percent possession, Ukraine managed to beat Spain, thanks to a 76th minute strike from Viktor Tsyhankov. The UEFA Nations League fixture held at the Olympic Stadium in Kiev in front of a large crowd on Tuesday night was the first win for Andriy Shevchenko's men over Spain. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Dhoni slammed

AFP, Dubai



Cricket fans have slammed Mahendra Singh Dhoni for apparently bullying umpire Paul Reiffel into changing a wide call during an Indian Premier League game.

The incident occurred Tuesday when Chennai Super Kings paceman Shardul Thakur bowled outside the off stump of Sunrisers Hyderabad batsman Rashid Khan.

Umpire Reiffel appeared to start the signal for a wide when Dhoni began protesting. Reiffel then seemed to change his mind midway through the signal and the ball went down as legitimate in the crucial penultimate over of Hyderabad's unsuccessful chase of 168.

Ian Bishop said on ESPNcricinfo that Reiffel had erred. "He started calling it a wide, he looked up, saw Dhoni and he changed his mind," Bishop said. "I am someone who is sympathetic to the umpires because it is a difficult job, but tonight I will say that Reiffel made a mistake."

Hyderabad captain David Warner was visibly unhappy in the dugout and Dhoni was slammed on social media. Others criticised Reiffel for bowing to pressure.