

GTV
Bangladesh v New Zealand
Second ODI (D/N)
Live from 1:30pm
TEN Sports

Paris Masters
Quarterfinals
Live from 7:00pm
ESPN
Primera Liga

Granada v Atletico Madrid
Live from 1:00am (Friday)
Bilbao v Elche
Live from 3:00am (Friday)
STAR Sports 2

Primera Liga
Villarreal v Getafe
Live from 1:00am (Friday)
Real Betis v Levante
Live from 3:00am (Friday)

Bangladesh v New Zealand

Second ODI (D/N)

Time: 1:30pm

Venue: Sher-e-Bangla National

Cricket Stadium, Mirpur

Costa opts for Spain

AFP, Madrid

Atletico Madrid striker Diego Costa has confirmed his intention to play for Spain rather than Brazil, the country of his birth, the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) confirmed on Tuesday.

In a statement the RFEF said that the player has stated "his desire to be at the disposition of the Spanish national team manager Vicente del Bosque" in a signed letter addressed to Julio Cesar Avelleda, secretary general of the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF).

"Therefore, Diego Costa can play with Spain in the upcoming games in November, if he is selected by the national team manager," the statement adds.

Spain are due to take on South Africa in a friendly in Johannesburg on November 19 and are in talks to arrange another friendly against Angola four days earlier.

Costa had also been included in Brazil manager Luiz Felipe Scolari's preliminary list for the Selecao's friendlies against Honduras and Chile in November.

However, Scolari confirmed in a statement on the CBF website that Costa had now been removed from the squad.

"A Brazilian player that rejects to wear the shirt of the Brazilian national team and to take part in a World Cup in his country can only be automatically withdrawn from the squad," he said.

"He is turning his back on the dream of millions, that of representing our five-time winning national team in a World Cup in Brazil."

Costa had made two appearances for Brazil earlier this year in friendly matches against Italy and Russia.

However, that does not prevent him switching allegiance because he hasn't played a competitive match at senior international level and he qualifies for Spain on residency grounds having moved to Atletico back in 2007.



Manchester United striker Javier Hernandez heads in his second goal against Norwich City during their League Cup fourth round match at Old Trafford on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

Chelsea KO Arsenal

AFP, London



Chelsea knocked Premier League leaders Arsenal out of the League Cup in the fourth round on Tuesday, while Manchester United reached the quarterfinals at the expense of Norwich City.

The game at the Emirates Stadium was a repeat of the 2007 final, which Chelsea won 2-1, and Jose Mourinho once again saw his side emerge triumphant after a 2-0 victory over his old sparring partner Arsene Wenger.

Both sides made sweeping alterations to their starting line-ups, with Wenger making eight changes and Gary Cahill the only player to retain his place from Chelsea's 2-1 win over Manchester City on Sunday.

Chelsea took a 25th-minute lead through Spanish full-back Cesar Azpilicueta, who poked a volley past goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski after Arsenal

right-back Carl Jenkinson misjudged a back-header.

Nacho Monreal and Aaron Ramsey both went close for Arsenal, only for Juan Mata to make it 2-0 with a rasping right-foot strike in the 66th minute.

United remain eight points below Arsenal in the league, but they booked a berth in the last eight after two goals from Javier Hernandez set up a breezy 4-0 win over Norwich at Old Trafford.

United manager David Moyes made nine changes, handing young England winger Wilfried Zaha a first start since the Community Shield, and saw his side take the lead in the 25th minute.

Leroy Fer was penalised for a foul on Adnan Januzaj and Hernandez sent Norwich goalkeeper Mark Bunn the wrong way from the penalty spot.

The Mexico striker claimed his second goal nine minutes into the second half, heading home at the second attempt after Bunn parried his initial effort from an

RESULTS

Arsenal 0 **Chelsea 2** (Azpilicueta 25, Mata 66)
Birmingham City 4 (Adeyemi 28, Lovrenkrands 85, 90, Lee 118) Stoke City 4 (Assaidi 10, Crouch 55, Arnautovic 71, Jones 94)

After extra time; **Stoke win 4-2** on penalties
Burnley 0 **West Ham United 2** (Taylor 76-pen, Collison 90-pen)

Leicester City 4 (Morgan 41, Wood 45, Miquel 53, Dyer 89) Fulham 3 (Rodallega 18, 54, Karagounis 87)
Manchester United 4 (Hernandez 20-pen, 54,

Alexander Buttner cross.

Phil Jones and Fabio da Silva added a pair of late goals, following a lengthy stoppage due to a head injury sustained by Norwich forward Robert Snodgrass, who had to be carried off on a stretcher.

Fulham were the only top-flight casualties on the night, going down 4-3 in a

gripping game at second-tier Leicester City.

Hugo Rodallega gave Fulham an 18th-minute lead, but Leicester hit back through Wes Morgan, Chris Wood and Arsenal loanee Ignasi Miquel.

Rodallega scored again and a scorching 87th-minute free-kick by Giorgos Karagounis looked to have sent the game to extra time, only for Lloyd Dyer to slide home an 89th-minute winner for Leicester.

Stoke City required penalties to overcome 2011 winners Birmingham City, who twice came from behind to force a 4-4 draw despite the dismissal of midfielder Wade Elliott in first-half stoppage time.

Birmingham forward Peter Lovrenkrands scored twice in the last five minutes to send the game to extra time before an Olly Lee goal in the 118th minute made it 4-4, only for Stoke to win 4-2 on penalties.

West Ham United, meanwhile, had to wait for late penalties from Matthew Taylor and Jack Collison to overcome

Atalanta hold Inter

AFP, Milan

Inter Milan missed the chance to put pressure on the sides above them in the Serie A table when they were held to a 1-1 draw at Atalanta on Tuesday.

Ricardo Alvarez put Inter in front 16 minutes in, controlling a header down by Rodrigo Palacio and firing low past Andrea Consigli at his near post.

However, Atalanta were defending an unbeaten record at home against Inter dating back to April 2008 and were also looking to make it four straight Serie A wins.

And they were level inside 25 minutes when Maxi Moralez crossed from the right and Argentine striker German Denis got up above Walter Samuel to head home his fifth goal of the campaign.

Walter Mazzarri's Inter side lost goalkeeper Samir Handanovic to injury at half-time but had chances to win the game in the second half, with Mauro Icardi and Alvarez both coming close.

However, the draw means they have now won just one win of their last five games and sit fourth in the table, three points behind Napoli and Juventus and eight adrift of leaders Roma.

On Thursday, Roma will look to extend their record-breaking run of nine consecutive wins at the start of the season when they host bottom club Chievo.

Qatar removes Zidane statue

AFP, Doha

Qatar has removed the Zinedine Zidane headbutt statue less than a month after it went on display following an outcry by conservatives, who slammed the art work as anti-Islam idolisation.

The five-metre (16.4-feet) sculpture which immortalises the headbutt delivered by the French football legend to Italian player Marco Materazzi in the 2006 World Cup final was put on display on Qatar's cornice on October 3.

But the statue that was sculpted by Algerian-born French artist Adel Abdessemed appears to have offended conservatives in the Muslim emirate, who saw it as a flagrant violation of religious tenets.

It was removed on Monday, according to local newspapers.

"Congratulations for having new idols," wrote one tweeter sarcastically, as the Arabic hashtag "Zidane's statue in Qatar" triggered massive reaction from dismayed conservatives.

Barca ease past Celta

AFP, Madrid



Barcelona moved four points clear of Atletico Madrid at the top of La Liga as they eased to a 3-0 win over Celta Vigo on Tuesday.

Alexis Sanchez continued his fine scoring form after netting the decisive goal in Barca's 2-1 win over Real Madrid at the weekend when he tapped home the opener after just nine minutes.

Celta had their chances to equalise towards the end of the first period, but went two behind at the beginning of the second when Cesc Fabregas' drive rebounded into his own net off goalkeeper Yoel Rodriguez and Fabregas added a third with a clinical

finish soon after.

With Barca in the midst of seven games in 22 days, coach Gerardo Martino made five changes from the side that started the match against Madrid on Saturday.

Javier Mascherano, Xavi, Andres Iniesta and Neymar all dropped to the bench, whilst Gerard Pique was left out of the squad due to an ongoing hamstring problem.

Carles Puyol, Marc Bartra, Alex Song, Pedro and Sanchez returned to the starting line up and it was the Chilean who notched his sixth goal of the season after just nine minutes.

Fabregas was played through on goal by Pedro and after his shot had been beaten away by Yoel, Sanchez had the simple task of tapping home the

rebound.

The visitors then had a few more decent openings on the break with Lionel Messi's shot across goal that flew just wide their best attempt.

But Celta improved mightily as the half wore on and Barca were again indebted to goalkeeper Victor Valdes for keeping them in front at the break.

However, Barca put the result beyond any doubt just three minutes after the restart when Fabregas' wonderful effort from 25 yards struck the bar and rebounded into the net off the unfortunate Yoel in the Celta goal.

Six minutes later it was 3-0 as Messi again fed Fabregas and this time he made sure it was his name on the scoresheet as he drilled the ball low past Yoel at his near post.

SA snatch 1-run win

SPORTS DESK



South Africa fashioned an amazing 1-run victory over Pakistan in the first day-night one-day international in Sharjah on Wednesday, thanks to an incredible late collapse of the Pakistan batting.

Chasing a modest target of 184, Pakistan looked on course for a comfortable victory at 165 for four in the 41st over with opener Ahmed Shehzad laying the foundation with a half-century (58), before an incredible collapse saw them lose the next six wickets for 17 runs. The collapse was triggered by South Africa's Pakistan-born spinner Imran Tahir who claimed three late wickets to return with figures of 3-45.

Earlier, spinners Saeed Ajmal and Shahid Afridi had helped Pakistan bundle South Africa out for 183. Off-spinner Ajmal, who snared 4-30, dismissed Graeme Smith (20), Faf du Plessis (12) and skipper AB de Villiers (four) in his incisive six-over spell to leave South Africa struggling at 63-5 before Wayne Parnell hit a career best 56 to lift the innings after South Africa won the toss and batted at Sharjah stadium.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SOUTH AFRICA: 183 all out in 49.5 overs (Smith 20, Duminy c Amin 20, Miller 37, Parnell 56, Tsotsobe 16 not out; Tanvir 2-33-2, Ajmal 4-30, Afridi 3-37)
PAKISTAN: 182 all out in 46.3 overs (Shehzad 58, Misbah 31; Tahir 3-45, Parnell 3-41)
Result: South Africa won by one run.
Man-of-the-match: Wayne Parnell



Barcelona forward Alexis Sanchez celebrates his goal during the Primera Liga clash against Celta Vigo at the Balaidos Stadium on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

India pull off a thriller

PTI, Nagpur



India pulled off a sensational six-wicket victory over Australia in the do-or-die sixth one-dayer, riding on Virat Kohli's brutal unbeaten 115 and Shikhar Dhawan's blistering century to level the seven-match series 2-2 on Wednesday.

Chasing a mammoth 351, the Indians gave ample display of their batting firepower on a belter of a track at the VCA Stadium at Jamtha to overhaul the target with three balls to spare in what turned out to be a thrilling floodlit contest which went down the wire.

The incredible run chase brought back memories of India's awesome victory in Jaipur on October 16 when they overhauled a stiff target of 360, achieving the second highest successful run chase ever in ODI history.

Dhawan (100), Rohit Sharma (79) and Kohli -- who hit the third fastest

ODI hundred by an Indian from just 61 balls, were the main architects of India's victory in the high-scoring tussle which has restored the balance of the series after the Ranchi and Cuttack ODIs were washed out.

Earlier, George Bailey (156) and Shane Watson (102) smashed scintillating centuries as Australia put the listless Indian bowling attack to the sword to post an imposing 350 for six after being in to bat.

India replied in stunning fashion with Dhawan hitting his fourth ODI ton in his 24th match while Kohli struck his 17th century in his 118th match. Dhawan faced 102 balls in his innings and hit 11 boundaries while Kohli's unbeaten knock came from just 66 balls with the help of 18 fours and a six.

Captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni (25 not out) hit the winning runs -- a two -- as India reached 351 for four to bring the capacity crowd to raptures and the home team players hugging

each other at the dressing room.

With the scores locked 2-2, the seventh ODI in Bangalore on Saturday will serve as the summit showdown of the series which has already seen a phenomenal 2565 runs scored so far (excluding the 295 scored by Australia in the abandoned fourth match at Ranchi).

India stuttered a bit towards the end as Suresh Raina (16) and struggling Yuvraj Singh (0) were out in the same over -- 43rd -- but Kohli, who had hit the fastest-ever 100 off just 52 balls by an Indian in Jaipur and an equally unruffled Dhoni saw them home.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: 350 for 6 in 50 overs (Watson 102, Bailey 156, Voges 44 not out; Jadeja 2-68, Ashwin 2-64)
INDIA: 351 for 4 in 49.3 overs (Sharma 79, Dhawan 100, Kohli 115 not out, Raina 16, Dhoni 25 not out; Johnson 2-72)
Result: India won by six wickets.

Player-of-the-match: Virat Kohli.