

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS 2

Indian Super League

Atletico Kolkata v Mumbai City

Live from 7:20pm

SONY SIX

Euro 2016 qualifier

Luxembourg v Spain

Live from 12:45am (Monday)

TEN CRICKET

3rd ODI

Pakistan v Australia

Live from 5:00pm

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Fed downs Djokovic

Meets Simon in Shanghai final today

AFP, Shanghai

A feisty Roger Federer overcame Novak Djokovic in a gripping Shanghai Masters semifinal Saturday, ending the Serb's incredible winning streak in China and his hopes of clinching a third successive title.

A brilliant attacking display from the 17-times Grand Slam winner, who served with aggression and spent much of his time at the net, unsettled the world number one for a 6-4, 6-4 win.

Djokovic, the reigning champion in Shanghai who clinched his fifth China Open title last week, was gunning for his 29th consecutive win on Chinese soil in his first match with Federer since their epic Wimbledon final.

Both players were looking to unnerve each other early on, with Djokovic attempting riskier groundstrokes to counter Federer confronting him at the net.

Every point was greeted with exuberant cheers in Shanghai's packed Qizhong Tennis Center, and the stadium erupted when Federer broke serve on his second break-point in the fifth game.

Djokovic saved the first break-point by

finding a way past Federer but gave away his serve with a weak backhand slice moments later.

He then earned his sole break-point of the set in the next game, which Federer saved. The 33-year-old Swiss then produced a perfect serving game at his next opportunity, firing four successive aces to march to a 5-3 lead as he closed in on the set with another ace.

Federer carried his ruthless approach into the early stages of the second set, breaking in the first game with a lifting groundstroke that was beyond Djokovic's reach.

Djokovic staged a valiant attempt to break as he was losing 3-5 with some incredible net-play as the pair tussled at deuce. But Federer recovered and claimed set and match in one hour 36 minutes.

Federer improved to 19-17 against Djokovic with the result, and will overtake Rafael Nadal to claim second place in the rankings next week on the back of his run in Shanghai.

He will meet Gilles Simon in the decider Sunday, after the Frenchman powered past Feliciano Lopez 6-2, 7-6 (7/1) to reach his first Masters final in six years and seal his return to the world top 20.

Chiellini steals the show

AFP, Paris



Giorgio Chiellini stole the show in Italy's win over Azerbaijan while the Netherlands escaped acute embarrassment and Belgium went on a goal blitz in Euro 2016 qualifying on Friday.

New Holland manager Guus Hiddink was heading for a second successive defeat after lowly Kazakhstan, ranked 127th in the world, took an early first half lead in Amsterdam.

But Klaas Jan Huntelaar cancelled out Russian-born defender Rinat Abdulin's shock 17th minute opener with Ibrahim Afellay and Robin van Persie from the penalty spot ensuring potential disaster was averted.

The Dutch are placed third in Group A, three points behind the Czech Republic, who followed up their opening win against the World Cup third-placed side with a 2-1 defeat of Turkey, and Iceland, 3-0 winners in Latvia.

In Palermo, Chiellini scored all the goals in Italy's 2-1 win over Azerbaijan to push the Azzurri on top of Group H on goal difference from Croatia, who saw off Bulgaria 1-0.

RESULTS

Latvia 0 **Iceland 3** (G. Sigurdsson 66, A. Gunnarsson 77, Gislason 90)

Netherlands 3 (Huntelaar 62, Afellay 82, van Persie 89-pen) Kazakhstan 1 (Abdulin 17)

Turkey 1 (Umut Bulut 8) **Czech Republic 2** (Sivok 15, Dockal 58)

Belgium 6 (De Bruyne 31-pen, 34, Chadli 37, Origi 59, Mertens 65, 68) Andorra 0

Cyprus 1 (Makridis 67) **Israel 2** (Damari 38, Ben Haim 45)

Wales 0 Bosnia and Herzegovina 0

Bulgaria 0 **Croatia 1** (Olic 36)

Italy 2 (Chiellini 44, 82) Azerbaijan 1 (Chiellini 77-og)

Chiellini broke the deadlock one minute from the interval, only to negate that effort with an own goal in the 77th minute.

His journey from hero back to villain back to hero was completed five minutes later when securing the winner at the end of a game where he had virtually matched his goal tally of the past seven years.

The Juventus defender became the first player to score a goal and an own goal in a Euro qualifier since Fernando Hierro for Spain in 1999

And in an intriguing twist the man

who caused World Cup shame when taking a bite out of Chiellini in Brazil, Barcelona star Luis Suarez, was returning for the first time since that dental attack for Uruguay in a friendly in Saudi Arabia.

"It would have been a great pity if we hadn't won tonight," Chiellini told Rai.

"We all showed what we're capable of and I think the public appreciated our performance. This is a win that will serve us well for the future."

Norway are lying third in Group H after a 3-0 win in Malta with the goals coming from two players from the English Championship -- Cardiff teenager Mats Moller Daehli and Blackburn Rovers forward Joshua King, who got a double.

Real Madrid's Gareth Bale was unable to work his magic for Wales as Chris Coleman's side were held to a goalless draw by Bosnia-Herzegovina in Cardiff.

After an opening win over Andorra Wales were left top of Group B, ahead of favourites Belgium, who got their Euro 2016 campaign up and running with a 6-0 rout of minnows Andorra.

Israel beat Cyprus 2-1 in Group B's other game in Nicosia.

Donovan bows out

REUTERS, East Hartford

Landon Donovan bid farewell to the United States national team in a 1-1 friendly draw against Ecuador in Hartford, Connecticut on Friday.

Donovan was unable to add to his record 57 goals in his 157th and final appearance for his country before being replaced in the 41st minute of the game.

The 32-year-old came close, though, striking the post in the 25th minute after being set up by Jozy Altidore.

Mix Diskerd had given the United States the lead in the fifth minute with a confident finish at the end of a move that was started by a Donovan burst down the left and cross to the back post.

Juergen Klinsmann's team were denied a victory by a superb 88th minute goal from Enner Valencia, the striker beating Brad Guzan with a dipping, swerving drive from 25 metres out.

Conte defends Azzurri

AFP, Milan



Italy coach Antonio Conte rejected criticism of his side following a "scant" 2-1 win over Azerbaijan that sent the Azzurri top of Group H in Euro 2016 qualifying ahead of an away clash with Malta on Monday.

Italy dominated Berti Vogts' visitors throughout a one-sided encounter in Palermo on Friday but had to rely on a late header from Giorgio Chiellini to claim all three points from their second group match.

Indeed Chiellini's name was the only one on the score-sheet, the Juventus defender having opened the scoring on 44 minutes before putting into his own net from an Azerbaijan corner with 14 minutes left.

Faced with dropping two precious points, Conte later deflected criticism having seen strikers Simone Zaza and Ciro Immobile, midfielder Claudio Marchisio and defender Leonardo Bonucci all come close to scoring in a busy first half.

The former Juve handler insisted Italy, who were man-marked for long periods of the game, more than deserved the win.

"Overall, it was a bit of a scant victory but we more than deserved the win," said Conte, who succeeded Cesare Prandelli in the summer following the Azzurri's disastrous first round exit from the World Cup.

"They had almost 10 men man-marking. They scored without having any real shots on goal and we came back in fantastic fashion."

The Stadio Barbera had yet to see a win this season amid promoted Palermo's poor start in Serie A and Italy missed several great opportunities before breaking the deadlock on the cusp of half-time.

Juventus midfieler Andrea Pirlo, who made his return from a long injury lay-off in time for a 3-2 league win over Roma last week, swung in a corner that goalkeeper Karam Agayev misjudged, allowing Chiellini to power home a header from six yards.



Italy defender Giorgio Chiellini celebrates one of his goals against Azerbaijan during their Euro 2016 qualifier at the Renzo Barbera Stadium on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP

Falcao ends long wait

AFP, Harrison

Radamel Falcao's first international goal in nearly a year and a quickfire Carlos Bacca brace gave Colombia a 3-0 victory over El Salvador on Friday in a friendly in the US.

Falcao, currently on loan to Manchester United from Monaco, opened the scoring in the seventh minute with a blistering header from a cross by Santiago Arias.

It was his first goal for Colombia since November 2013 and was greeted with rapture by the largely pro-Colombia crowd at Red Bull Arena, home of Major League Soccer's New York Red Bulls.

Falcao missed Colombia's run to the World Cup quarter-finals recovering from a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee.

He had made his international return as a late substitute in a 1-0 friendly defeat to Brazil last month.

Bacca scored twice in the space of three minutes in the second half, in the 48th and 51st minutes, to give Colombia a comfortable lead.

Zidane threatened with coaching ban

AFP, Madrid



France legend Zinedine Zidane has been threatened with suspension from his current role as Real Madrid's reserve team coach because he has not validated his coaching badge, according to a club source.

"We've received a notification (from the Spanish Federation) detailing a possible suspension. We have 10 days to present our defence, which is what Real will do," said a spokesperson for the 10-time European champions.

Zidane holds a UEFA 'A' licence level two coaching badge but needs a level three licence to operate in the Spanish third tier, in which Real Madrid Castilla, the club's reserve side, play.

Yet since the beginning of the season the two-goal star from France's 1998 World Cup success on home soil has been nonetheless coaching the team.

He risks a three-month suspension for the offence, according to popular Spanish dailies As and Marca.

The 42-year-old, a former world player of the year, has yet to complete the full quota of

practice hours with the French Football Federation to obtain the promotion to level three.

Zidane was elevated to reserve team coach at the beginning of this season following a single campaign as Carlo Ancelotti's assistant during their famous "decima" season that culminated with May's Champions League triumph.

However, the former playing genius has hardly set the world alight, losing five of his seven games in charge.

A Spanish coaching school, the Cenafe, has also submitted a complaint to the Spanish Federation against Real over of Zidane's coaching of the reserve team, claiming that they are using his assistant Santiago Sanchez's name on the teamsheet to bypass the regulations.

The case has sparked controversy in Spain with national team coach Vicente del Bosque telling Cope radio station that "everyone should have a coaching badge".

Rayo Vallecano coach Paco Jemez used tougher language, describing Real's actions as "shameful".

However, both Ancelotti and former Barcelona legend -- as coach -- Johan Cruyff have spoken out in support of Zidane.



Stosur faces Diyas in Osaka final

AFP, Osaka

Former US Open winner Samantha Stosur beat Ukraine's Elina Svitolina on Saturday to reach the Japan Women's Open final as she seeks the first successful title defence of her career.

The top-seeded Australian downed third seed Svitolina 7-6 (8/6), 6-2 in Osaka to set up a final against Kazakhstan's Zarina Diyas.

Stosur, 30, is attempting to win in Osaka for a third time after her triumphs in 2009 and 2013, which have already made her the tournament's most successful player.

Diyas reached Sunday's final by beating Luksika Kumkhum 6-2, 7-5, halting the dream run of the Thai who reached her first WTA semis despite not winning a main draw match since March.

Luksika, 21, also won singles silver and doubles gold at the Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea, which finished last week.

Suarez back in business

AFP, Paris



Luis Suarez returned for Uruguay for the first time since his infamous World Cup biting shame and helped the South Americans to a 1-1 friendly draw against Saudi Arabia.

The 27-year-old Barcelona star's shot from an angle on 47 minutes in Jeddah came back off the far post before hitting Hassan Muath Fallatah for an own goal.

Suarez was replaced with 20 minutes to go but his hopes of a winning international return were ruined by Naif Hazazi's last-minute equaliser for the former Asian champions.

Although still serving a nine-match competitive international ban for sinking his teeth into Italy's Giorgio Chiellini at the World Cup, Suarez is allowed to play in friendlies.

Suarez, whose club ban ends in two weeks when Barcelona face bitter rivals Real Madrid, could have scored just before coming off when he pounced on a dreadful backpass.

But with only goalkeeper Waleed Abdullah to beat, he tried to dribble past the shot-stopper and was tackled.

"Happy to wear this shirt again, gives me so much joy. Love the shirt. Uruguay!," tweeted Suarez after the match.

Asian champions Japan gave Javier Aguirre his first win with a laboured 1-0 victory over Jamaica while Australia struggled to a 0-0 draw in sweltering Abu Dhabi.

Japan, who like Australia are building towards the Asian Cup in January, squandered several chances against Jamaica in Niigata but an own goal from Nyron Nosworthy in the 16th minute proved decisive.

Japan were beaten 2-0 by Uruguay and were held 2-2 by Venezuela last month in their first two games under Mexican coach Aguirre, who took charge following the side's World Cup flop in Brazil.

Japan will need to improve before a glamour friendly against Brazil in Singapore on Tuesday.

In humid Abu Dhabi, Australia were held 0-0 by fellow Asian Cup finalists United Arab Emirates.

Villa scores on debut

AFP, Sydney

Spanish World Cup winner David Villa rescued a point for Melbourne City with a slick goal on his Australian A-League debut to grab a 1-1 draw with Sydney FC on Saturday.

Spain's all-time leading goalscorer scored a superb equaliser 15 minutes after coming on as a second half sub in his first outing in a 10-game loan from New York City.

Villa came inside a defender and swept home a volley off a pass from former Ireland international Damien Duff to give his A-League sojourn a flying start before he returns to the Major League Soccer in late December.

Villa, 32, was the first major signing announced by Melbourne since they were bought by English Premier League giants Manchester City earlier this year.

The Spanish great, whose 97th and final international was against Australia at this year's Brazil World Cup, ranks along with Italian legend Alessandro Del Piero as the biggest signing in the 10 years of the A-League.