



Brazil defender David Luiz rejoices his opening goal against Austria during their international friendly at the Ernst Happel Stadium in Vienna on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Selecao extend winning streak

REUTERS, Vienna



Brazil chalked up their sixth straight win, all in friendlies, since the World Cup when they beat Austria 2-1 on Tuesday in a joyless performance marred by tactical fouls and a negative approach.

A stunning late strike by Roberto Firmino, his first for his country, won the match for Brazil, although Austria were the more enterprising team and could easily have gone in with a halftime lead.

Austria, previously unbeaten this year, at least had the consolation of being the first team to score against Brazil since Dunga replaced Luiz Felipe Scolari as coach following their woeful World Cup performance in July.

Aleksandar Dragovic converted a penalty in the 75th minute, ending Brazil's run of five successive clean sheets, to cancel out David Luiz's header just after the hour.

Brazil were low on creativity, often struggling to play the ball out of their own half in the face of the home team's aggressive pressing, and repeatedly interrupted Austrian moves with rough and cynical fouls in midfield.

Fernandinho escaped a booking when he left Veli Kavlak with blood streaming from a cut near his eye when he went in for one challenge with his elbows flying.

Brazil had to wait for over half an hour for their first real shot when Oscar tested Robert Almer with a low effort from 25 metres and a David Luiz free kick flew over the crossbar shortly afterwards.

Brazil broke through in the 64th minute when David Luiz headed in from a corner although he seemed to tug his marker's shirt as he got to the ball.

## England line up friendlies

AFP, London

England will play high-profile friendly internationals against world champions Germany and France in the build-up to Euro 2016, the Football Association announced on Wednesday.

France will play at Wembley on November 17 next year, while Germany will be the opponents in March 2016.

Negotiations are also underway concerning potential friendlies with the Netherlands and Spain before the European championships, the FA added.

England had already confirmed fixtures against Italy for March next year and a fixture against the Republic of Ireland in Dublin on June 7.

## Pele's son sentenced

BBC ONLINE

The son of the Brazilian football legend Pele has been sentenced to 33 years in jail for laundering money raised from drug trafficking.

Edinho is a retired footballer who played goalkeeper for Pele's old club, Santos, in the 1990s.

He was first arrested in 2005 and has served a sentence for drug trafficking offences and links with a notorious drug dealer in the city of Santos.

He admits he had a drug problem but denies the trafficking charges.

The ruling was issued by a judge in the nearby coastal city of Praia Grande, in Sao Paulo state.

Edinho is expected to appeal the sentence. The 43-year-old works as a goalkeeping coach at Santos.

## James's auction a success

BBC ONLINE

Former England goalkeeper David James's football memorabilia has been auctioned off after the star went bankrupt.

James, 44, was declared bankrupt in May despite earning around £20m throughout his career.

An England shirt the player wore in the Three Lions' 1-0 World Cup win over Argentina in 2002 fetched £672.

A Liverpool FC goalkeeper's jersey worn during the Reds' 1995/96 season sold for more than £160 while a Portsmouth No 1 top James wore in 2008 went for £480.

## C'Ron v Messi a sideshow as Argentina lose

REUTERS, Manchester



'Cristiano Ronaldo v Lionel Messi' got top billing at a packed Old Trafford but it was a lesser light who scored as Portugal scraped a 1-0 friendly win over Argentina on Tuesday.

Raphael Guerreiro headed the winner in added time after a second half riddled with substitutions and missing the excitement factor provided by the game's two biggest players who did not reappear after halftime.

With Messi and Ronaldo on the field, Argentina showed what coach Gerardo Martino is looking for from his team, a quick-passing possession game with fast thrusts forward.

They dominated the opening half-hour in which they could have scored at least twice, the first chance a shot from Angel Di Maria, playing at the home of his club

Manchester United, that skimmed the outside of the post after he was set up by Messi.

Argentina's closest effort was in the 11th minute when Messi beat the offside trap to reach a through ball on the right and came in at a tight angle, his low shot from the edge of the six-yard box beating Beto but glancing off the post and back into play. As the half-hour approached, Messi crossed, Javier Pastore headed and Beto dived to save before Ronaldo raised the decibels in the stadium when he backheeled a neat pass to Bosingwa then raced into the box to take the right back's cross but his shot after two dummies went over the bar.

It was the signal for Portugal to come out of their shell for the last 15 minutes of the half and put the Argentine defence under pressure but Martino's side managed to play their way out of trouble.

After a lukewarm start to the second half, Di Maria had a shot from outside the box saved by Beto.

## Pakistan go slow

AFP, Dubai



New Zealand bowled with discipline and, despite Azhar Ali and Younis Khan's half-centuries, looked set for a lead in the second Test against Pakistan in Dubai on Wednesday.

Pakistan lost Asad Shafiq in seamer Tim Southee's penultimate over for 44 to close the third day on 281-6, still trailing by 122 runs on New Zealand's first innings total of 403.

Sarfraz Ahmed was unbeaten on 28 and Yasir Shah on one in a day when the Pakistani batsmen failed to score big after getting good starts.

Leg-spinner Ish Sodhi led the New Zealand bowling with 2-65.

Pakistan, resuming at 34-2 saw off the first session without losing any wicket as Younis Khan (72) and Azhar Ali (75) shared a 113-run stand for the

third wicket.

But New Zealand got four wickets in the next two sessions to press home their claims for a useful lead and in turn improve their chances for a series-levelling win.

Pakistan won the first Test by 248 runs in Abu Dhabi.

Azhar added another 50 runs with skipper Misbahul Haq, but New Zealand hit back with the second new ball taken after 83 overs with the score at 194-3.

Trent Boult claimed his first wicket in the series when he produced a beautiful delivery which got the edge of Misbah's bat and landed in the safe hands of Ross Taylor at first slip.

Misbah's 28 had two boundaries and a six.

Ali drove spinner Mark Craig through point for three to complete his 18th half-century.

But he too fell soon, trying to cut Sodhi and was bowled. He hit six

boundaries and a six during his patient five-hour 22-minute vigil.

Shafiq was lucky to survive at 26 when Boult bowled him with a sharp incoming delivery but much to New Zealand's dismay it turned out to be a no-ball.

He too failed to bat for long and was caught off a loose shot in the end, adding 59 for the sixth wicket with Sarfraz.

In the morning Pakistan's in-form batsmen were under pressure after a big New Zealand total and, more so, after losing both the openers cheaply on Tuesday.

But Younis and Ali showed no sign of pressure as they started the day solidly.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**NEW ZEALAND:** First innings 403 (Latham 137, Craig 43; Babar 4-137)

**PAKISTAN:** First innings 281 for 6 (Azhar 75, Younis 72, Misbah 28, Shafiq 44, Sarfraz Ahmed 28 not out; Boult 1-46, Southee 1-41)

## Kroos sinks Spain

AFP, Paris



England notched up a 3-1 victory over old foes Scotland on Tuesday while world champions Germany and Portugal sealed last-gasp 1-0 wins over Spain and Argentina respectively in friendlies on Tuesday.

Wayne Rooney became England's third-highest goalscorer outright as Roy Hodgson's side defeated the Scots to record a sixth successive victory.

Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain put England ahead at Celtic Park and Rooney scored either side of a late Andy Robertson strike to chalk up his 45th and 46th international goals on his 101st appearance.

It took the Manchester United striker clear of Jimmy Greaves, with whom he had previously shared third place, and left him three goals shy of Bobby Charlton's all-time record and two goals behind Gary Lineker.

Germany's victory over Spain, the team that preceded them as world champions, came in a game between two experimental sides thanks to a 90th-minute goal by Toni Kroos.

"It was just what we'd been hoping for. It's been a big year and this was a fine way to close it," Kroos said after the game.

Spain's substitute goalkeeper Kiko Casilla was guilty of a howler, fumbling Kroos's innocuous-looking shot from the edge of the area.

Real Madrid keeper Iker Casillas had started for Spain in his 160th international appearance, but made way for his near namesake Casilla with 20 minutes to go.

In Genoa, a virtual second-choice Italy side laboured to a narrow 1-0 win over Albania.

The winning goal even had a touch of fortune about it as Hamdi Salih diverted Stefano Okaka's shot past goalkeeper Etrit Berisha with seven minutes left.

On his debut, Okaka, a second-half substitute for Sebastian Giovinco, was a rare bright spark for Italy.

### RESULTS

**Belarus 3** (Kislyak 50, Signevich 56, Nekhaichik 81) **Mexico 2** (Jimenez 48, 53)  
**France 1** (Varane 84) **Sweden 0**  
**Greece 0 Serbia 2** (Petrovic 60, Gudelj 90)  
**Hungary 1** (Nikolic 86) **Russia 2** (Ilgashevich 49, Kerzhakov 80)  
**Italy 1** (Salih 82-og) **Albania 0**  
**Poland 2** (Jedrzejczyk 45+1, Millik 62) **Switzerland 2** (Drmic 4, Frei 87)  
**Republic of Ireland 4** (Pilkington 7, Brady 55, 86, McClean 82) **USA 1** (Diskerud 39)  
**Romania 2** (Keseru 53, 59) **Denmark 0**  
**Scotland 1** (Robertson 83) **England 3** (Oxlade-Chamberlain 32, Rooney 47, 85)  
**Slovakia 2** (Holosko 1, Hamsik 17) **Finland 1** (Hubocan 45-og)  
**Slovenia 0 Colombia 1** (Ramos 43)  
**Spain 0 Germany 1** (Kroos 89)



Germany midfielder Toni Kroos (R) celebrates his all-important goal against Spain during their international friendly at the Balaidos Stadium in Vigo on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Oz take 2-1 lead

AFP, Canberra

Australia cruised to a 73-run victory over South Africa in their third one-day international on Wednesday on the back of big-hitting innings by Aaron Finch and Steve Smith.

Opener Finch cracked 109 off 127 balls and Smith hit a swash buckling unbeaten 73 off 55 balls as Australia amassed a formidable 329 for five off their 50 overs in Canberra.

The Proteas were always up against it and were dismissed for 256 in the 45th over, with last man Imran Tahir unable to bat because of a knee he injured while fielding.

The Australians now lead the five-match series 2-1 ahead of the final games in Melbourne on Friday and Sydney on Sunday.

Left-arm Mitchell Starc troubled the South Africans with his late swing and finished with four for 32 off eight overs, while fellow opening bowler Josh Hazlewood claimed three for 51.

Hashim Amla hit 102 off 115 balls and skipper AB de Villiers cracked a belligerent 52 off 34 balls to briefly threaten Australia's bowlers.

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**AUSTRALIA:** 329 for 5 in 50 overs (Warner 53, Finch 109, Watson 40, Smith 73 not out, Marsh 22; Morkel 2-84)

**SOUTH AFRICA:** 256 all out in 44.3 overs (Amla 102, De Kock 47, Du Plessis 17, De Villiers 52; Starc 4-32, Hazlewood 3-51)

**Result:** Australia won by 73 runs and lead 5-match series 2-1.

**Player-of-the-match:** Steve Smith.