

What to WATCH

SONY SIX

Australia v England

5th Test, Day-4

Live from 5:30am (Sunday)

TEN 1

South Africa v India

1st Test, Day-2

Live from 2:30pm

Serie A

Cagliari v Juventus

Live from 1:45am (Sunday)

SONY ESPN

Serie A

Roma v Atalanta

Live from 11:00pm

TEN 2

FA Cup

Man City v Burnley

Live from 9:00pm

Norwich v Chelsea

Live from 11:30pm

La Liga

Sevilla v Real Betis

Live from 1:45am (Sunday)

Smith, Khawaja keep Eng at bay

AFP, Sydney

Steve Smith racked up another milestone as he continued to torment England and Usman Khawaja neared a century to put Australia in a strong position after day two of the final Ashes Test in Sydney on Friday.

The Australian skipper became the second fastest batsman to reach 6,000 Test runs in his 111th innings, second only to the legendary Don Bradman.

Smith, with three centuries in this five-match series, has been the bane of the England team and was potentially heading towards another ton.

At the close, Smith was on 44 with Khawaja reaching his highest score of the series on 91 in Australia's 193 for two in reply to England's 346 first innings.

"We're stoked he's on our team so we



Australia skipper Steve Smith (L) continued victimising England as, along with Usman Khawaja (R), he put on an unbeaten 107-run third-wicket stand on the second day of the fifth Ashes Test in Sydney yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP



India seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar tied South Africa's batsmen up in knots with his swing and seam to take four wickets on the first day of the first Test in Cape Town yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

SA strike back after Bhuvi flurry

AGENCIES, Cape Town

India started strongly on the first day of the first Test against South Africa at Newlands on Friday, but finished in disarray after a ferocious onslaught by the home team's fast bowlers.

India were 28 for three at the close - with skipper Virat Kohli amongst the victims -- after bowling out the hosts for 286.

It was a remarkable turnaround after South Africa had been reduced to 12 for three by Bhuvneshwar Kumar inside the first half hour.

Counter-attacking batting, led by aggressive half-centuries by AB de Villiers and captain Faf du Plessis, and some wayward bowling by India enabled South Africa to make a reasonable total on a lively pitch.

Then the South African fast bowl-

ers struck.

Vernon Philander had Murali Vijay caught at gully and four balls later Dale Steyn, playing his first Test match in more than a year, caught Shikhar Dhawan off his own bowling when Dhawan's attempted pull steepled high into the air.

The biggest prize fell to Morne Morkel, who came on as first change and produced a sharply-lifting delivery which Indian captain Virat Kohli edged to wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock after making just five.

Earlier after India were asked to field, Kumar gained appreciable movement to plunge the South African innings into deep trouble.

Dean Elgar edged the third ball of the match to be caught behind by Wriddhiman Saha for nought.

Aiden Markram fell in Kumar's next over, leg-before for five, before Hashim Amla, on three, edged an attempted back foot drive and gave

Saha a second catch.

De Villiers and Du Plessis then put on 114 for the fourth wicket, with De Villiers in sparkling form as he hit 65 off 84 balls with 11 fours.

He missed a drive against new cap Jasprit Bumrah and was bowled. Du Plessis went on to make 62 off 104 balls with 12 fours before he was caught behind off Hardik Pandya.

Quinton de Kock (43) and Vernon Philander (23) put on a rapid 60 for the sixth wicket before De Kock was caught behind by Kumar and Philander was bowled by Mohammed Shami.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SOUTH AFRICA: First inning 286 all out (De Villiers 65, Du Plessis 62, De Kock 43, Philander 23, Maharaj 35, Rabada 26; Kumar 4-87, Ashwin 2-21)

INDIA: First innings 28 for 3 (Dhawan 16, Pujara 5 not out; Philander 1-13, Steyn 1-13, Morkel 1-0)

Leo can quit if Catalonia leaves Spain

AFP, Barcelona

Lionel Messi has ensured he could become a free agent if Barcelona no longer plays in a major European league as a result of Catalan independence, Spanish media wrote on Friday.

According to a report in Madrid daily El Mundo, the contract Messi signed last November includes a clause that he must remain a Barcelona player only as long as the club is playing in "a top-level European league."

A source at Barcelona told AFP that "for reasons of confidentiality the club never comments on contractual relations with players."

QUICK SINGLES

The following are a few samples of stories that did not make the print edition. However, if they pique your interest, you can always read them online on The Daily Star website by simply scanning the QR codes listed below:

'Mashrafe bhui motivates while Shakib shares experience'

Imrul Kayes talks about how Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Shakib Al Hasan help the team. Bangladesh stepped onto the new year under a new Test captain and without a head coach for the upcoming tri-nation series.

Ronaldo's ice sculpture draws comparisons to airport statue

As Russia prepares for the 2018 World Cup, new ice sculptures are erected in Moscow to represent countries that qualified for the biggest event in football.

Barca held, Real cruise

Barcelona were held 1-1 by Celta Vigo while Real Madrid moved one step closer to securing a King's Cup quarter-final spot with a 3-0 victory over Numancia.

Barca line up Colombian giant

AFP, Barcelona

With Barcelona enforcer Javier Mascherano on his way out, the La Liga leaders are "one step away" from signing Colombian international Yerry Mina from Palmeiras, according to the Spanish press.

Barcelona are also sweating over the fate of their young French centre-back Samuel Umtiti, widely reported to be in talks with Manchester City.

Mina is an athletic 6ft 5in (1.95m), 23-years-old and has been with Sao Paulo outfit Palmeiras since May 2016.

Serena pulls out

AFP, Melbourne



Defending champion Serena Williams pulled out of the Australian Open on Friday, saying she was still not at the level she needs to be after giving birth to her first child.

The American 23-time Grand Slam winner made a tentative return at an Abu Dhabi exhibition late last month, losing to French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko.

Prior to that her last competitive match was at the Australian Open final almost a year ago, which she won despite being two months pregnant, memorably beating sister Venus in the decider.

Since then, she has given birth to her first child and married Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian at a star-studded wedding, where guests included Beyonce and reality TV star Kim Kardashian.

"After competing in Abu Dhabi I realised that although I am super close, I'm not where I personally want to be," the 36-year-old said in a statement.

"My coach and team always said 'only go to tournaments when you are prepared to go all the way'.

"I can compete, but I don't want to just

compete, I want to do far better than that and to do so, I will need a little more time.

"With that being said, and even though I am disappointed about it, I've decided not to compete in the Australian Open this year."

In Abu Dhabi, Williams was clearly sluggish and had problems with her serve. She also stuck mostly to the baseline and only twice charged the net.

The decision means her tilt at matching Margaret Court, who boasts 24 major titles and is renowned as the most successful player in Grand Slam history, must wait.

It also deprives the opening Grand Slam of the year of another major star, after former world number one Andy Murray and Japan's Kei Nishikori both withdrew injured on Thursday.

Australian Open tournament director Craig Tiley expressed his admiration for Williams' efforts to return to the game she loves.

"The true champion Serena is has been demonstrated in the Herculean efforts she has made over the past few months in her desire to play the Australian Open," he said.

"I've been in constant contact with Serena and her team and know this is why she has pushed it and pushed it until the eleventh hour to make her final decision."



From Chelsea flop to African king

AFP, Accra



It took Liverpool and Egypt star Mohamed Salah just three years to transform from a Chelsea reject to being crowned African Player of the Year in Ghana Thursday.

Salah failed to blossom after moving from Swiss outfit Basel to Stamford Bridge, leading to him being lent to Serie A sides Fiorentina and AS Roma, then sold to the latter.

At Roma, his career took off as he scored 29 goals in two seasons and created 17 others to draw the attention of several English Premier League suitors.

Liverpool made a successful £34.3 million (about \$46.5 million; 38.5 million euros) bid and Salah has not looked back since, scoring 23 goals in 29 matches in all competitions.

He has made a habit of bagging braces with the most recent helping Liverpool come from behind at home to edge Leicester City 2-1 last month.

Seventeen of the goals have come in the Premier League, placing him second in the scorers' charts, only one goal behind Harry Kane of Tottenham Hotspur.

Apart from his Liverpool exploits, Salah last year helped resurgent Egypt



CAF president Ahmad Ahmad (R) presents the African Footballer of the Year award to Egypt and Liverpool striker Mohamed Salah during a ceremony in Accra on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP

finish Africa Cup of Nations runners-up and reach the World Cup for the first time since 1990.

The African Player of the Year title completed an awards hat-trick after he was named BBC African Footballer of the Year in December and Arab Player of the Year earlier this week.

It is a far cry from a few years ago when Salah was doubting whether he could ever become a regular scorer in a major European league.

"Mohamed has been absolutely amazing and gives Liverpool a different dimension because his pace gets him behind defenders," said former Liverpool star Ian Rush.

"Before the arrival of Salah, opponents of Liverpool were happy in the knowledge that no one was going past them."

Another former Liverpool star, Gary McAllister, said the Egyptian combined individual skill with teamwork.

Wenger banned for three matches

AFP, London



Arsene Wenger has been handed a three-match touchline ban and fined by the Football Association over comments he made about the refereeing of Sunday's Premier League game against West Brom.

In a separate case, the Arsenal boss has also been asked by English football's governing body to provide his observations on what he said about penalty decisions that went against the Gunners in both of their last two matches over the festive period, against the Baggies and Chelsea.

"Arsene Wenger will serve a touchline ban for Arsenal's next three matches after he was charged with misconduct," an FA statement said.

"It follows an independent regulatory commission hearing today at which the Arsenal manager admitted that his language and behaviour in the match officials' changing room after the West Brom game on Sunday was abusive, improper and questioned the integrity of the match referee. He was also fined £40,000 (\$54,000)."

Earlier, Wenger said he was unrepentant over his comments about penalty decisions against the Gunners.

আকর্ষণীয় মূল্যে

জমি বিক্রয়!

আবাসিক/বাণিজ্যিক

উত্তরা

মেইন রোড ৬০ ফিট রাস্তার পার্শ্বে
এবং ২০০ ফিট হাইওয়ে সংলগ্ন উত্তরা ১০ নং সেক্টরে
আবাসিক/বাণিজ্যিক ব্যবহারযোগ্য
৫.৯৮ বিঘা নিষ্কণ্টক জমি
আকর্ষণীয় মূল্যে বিক্রয় করা হইবে।

মতিঝিল

মতিঝিল শাপলা চত্বর সংলগ্ন
নটরডেম কলেজের বিপরীতে, ১৮০ ফিট রাস্তা সংলগ্ন
ব্যাংক, বীমা, কর্পোরেট অফিস ও শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানের
জন্যে উপযোগী ৩.৫ বিঘা নিষ্কণ্টক জমি
আকর্ষণীয় মূল্যে বিক্রয় করা হইবে।

প্রকৃত ক্রেতাগণকে নিম্নলিখিত নাম্বারে যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হইল।

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