

What to WATCH

SONY SIX

FIFA International Friendly

Czech Republic v North Ireland

Live from 11:00pm

SONY ESPN

2020 Euro Qualifiers

France v Turkey

Live from 12:45am (Tuesday)

TEN 1

2020 Euro Qualifiers

Ukraine v Portugal

Live from 12:45am (Tuesday)

TEN 2

2020 Euro Qualifiers

Estonia v Germany

Live from 12:45am (Tuesday)

NEYMAR INJURED AGAIN

Neymar's injury woes continued as the PSG forward lasted just 12 minutes against Nigeria on international duty before limping off clutching the back of his left thigh while playing for Brazil in the National Stadium in Singapore yesterday. Five minutes before he was replaced by Philippe Coutinho, Neymar was attended to by the Brazil medical staff on the touchline but deemed fine to continue. However, the Brazil number 10 could not continue and it remains to be seen what the extent of his injury is. In total, Neymar has suffered nine separate injuries during his spell at PSG, missing around 40 games in all competitions during his two seasons in Paris.

—AGENCIES





India bowler Ravichandran Ashwin (2nd from L) celebrates with captain Virat Kohli after dismissing Faf du Plessis (L) in spectacular fashion, with the South Africa skipper having added just five to his side's total, on the fifth day of the second Test in Pune yesterday. India won the match by an innings and 137 runs to seal the series 2-0. PHOTO: COLLECTED

India seal series with record win

AFP, PUNE

Umesh Yadav led an inspired bowling display as India thrashed South Africa by an innings and 137 runs in the second Test to clinch a record 11th straight series triumph at home on Sunday.

The tourists were dismissed for 189 after following-on in the final session of day four in Pune, as India took an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

Vernon Philander, who made 37, and Keshav Maharaj, who scored 22, put up a brief resistance during their 56-run eighth-wicket stand, but Yadav broke through with

We are lucky to have the group of players we have in the last three-four years. It's amazing to see that hunger and passion for all the guys to keep improving. Looking at the larger picture of the Test Championship, every game has value so we're not going to take our foot off the gas in the third Test. No one's going to relax at any stage, that's a guarantee.

VIRAT KOHLI
India captain

MOST CONSECUTIVE SERIES WINS AT HOME							
TEAM	SERIES	START	END	MAT	WON	LOST	DRAW
India	11	2012/13		31	25	1	5
Australia	10	1994/95	2000/01	38	28	5	5
Australia	10	2004	2008/09	27	23	1	3
West Indies	8	1975/76	1985/86	37	21	3	13
South Africa	7	1997/98	2001/02	21	15	1	5
England	7	2008	2012	23	16	2	5

the wicket of Philander.

He took his third wicket after sending back Kagiso Rabada for four and spinner Ravindra Jadeja trapped Maharaj lbw to wrap up the game as India went past Australia's 10-series wins on home turf. Jadeja returned figures of 3-52.

The win also consolidated India's number-one position in the world Test Championship with 200 points.

Skipper Virat Kohli set up the win with his unbeaten 254 -- a record seventh double-century for the star batsman -- in India's 601 for five declared.

Ravichandran Ashwin struck twice in the morning session after the tourists started their second innings trailing by 326.

Ashwin had du Plessis -- who promoted himself to number four in the batting order -- caught behind for five with wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha holding on to a juggling catch.

The off-spinner soon got opening batsman Dean Elgar caught for 48 as South Africa slipped further.

Paceman Ishant Sharma struck with his second ball of the day to trap Aiden Markram lbw for nought.

Markram had a long discussion with Elgar over whether to review the on-field call but walked, only for the replays to suggest the ball would have gone over the stumps.

Kohli, who now has 7,054 runs from 81 Tests, put together crucial partnerships including a 225-run fifth-wicket stand with Jadeja, who made 91, to extend India's dominance.

Du Plessis admitted Kohli's knock and India's mammoth total made the tourists play catch-up after the hosts elected to bat first.

"The way India batted, especially Virat with 250, it takes a lot of mental toughness. Two days in the field can wear you down," said du Plessis.

"Especially that second evening, the batsmen were a bit weak in the mindset. From then it's playing catch-up. We were found wanting in this Test match."

SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA: First innings 601 for 5 declared.

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 275 and second innings 189 all out (Elgar 48, Bavuma 38, Philander 37, Maharaj 22; Yadav 3-22, Ashwin 2-45, Jadeja 3-52)

Result: India won by an innings and 137 runs and lead the three-match series 2-0.

Player-of-the-match: Virat Kohli.

Italy through, Spain trudge on

AFP, Paris



Italy became the second team to qualify for Euro 2020 after a 2-0 win over Greece on Saturday, while three-time champions Spain edged closer to the finals despite conceding a stoppage-time equaliser away to Norway.

Chelsea midfielder Jorginho dispatched a second-half penalty as Italy, wearing green kits for just the second time in history, registered a seventh straight win in Group J.

The Azzurri, who failed to qualify for the 2018 World Cup, added a second in Rome on 78 minutes through a deflected strike from Juventus forward Federico Bernardeschi.

Roberto Mancini's side joined Belgium in the draw for next year's finals, where Italy will play their first two group games at the Stadio Olimpico.

Spain dropped their first points in Group F as Joshua King converted a 94th-minute spot-kick to rescue a 1-1 draw for Norway following a foul by goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga on Omar Elabdellaoui.

Sergio Ramos broke the Spanish international appearances record as he won his 168th cap in Oslo to overtake Iker Casillas.

The visitors led when Saul Niguez slammed home from 20 yards moments after half-time but Spain were denied a seventh win in a row as King's equaliser kept Norway in the running.

"It's a real pain to lose points in the final seconds. It's complicated to play against a team who knew that if they lost they were pretty much out," said Spain captain Ramos.

Norway last qualified for a major tournament at the 2000 European Championship and are fourth in the group, four points adrift of neighbours Sweden with three games to play.

Sebastian Larsson netted two spot-kicks as Sweden cruised to a 4-0 rout of Malta to reclaim second place behind Spain. Marcus Danielson broke the deadlock on 11 minutes in Ta' Qali and home skipper Andrei Agius also scored an own goal.

Romania remain a point behind Sweden following a 3-0 win in the Faroe Islands secured by second-half goals from George Puscas, Ionut Mitrita and Claudiu Keseru.

Kasper Schmeichel produced a series of excellent saves as Denmark defeated Switzerland 1-0 to pull level with the Republic of Ireland in Group D.

Leicester City goalkeeper Schmeichel pulled off superb stops to deny Granit Xhaka, Admir Mehmedi and Ricardo Rodriguez before Yussuf Poulsen grabbed an 84th-minute winner for Denmark in Copenhagen.

The Danes moved up to 12 points alongside group leaders Ireland, who drew 0-0 away to Georgia, while Switzerland are four points off the pace but with a game in hand.

"We battled for the whole game, there was a tremendous atmosphere. I think that was one of my best performances for Denmark," said Schmeichel.

Mick McCarthy's Ireland couldn't establish any momentum earlier in the day in Tbilisi and were left frustrated by wayward finishing from their few opportunities to break the deadlock.

Bosnia and Herzegovina reignited their qualification hopes in Italy's group with a 4-1 win over second-placed Finland.

A brace from Juventus midfielder Miralem Pjanic and goals from Izet Hajrovic and Armin Hodzic pushed Bosnia to within two points of Finland.

Armenia blew the chance to move level with the Finns as Liechtenstein substitute Yanik Fritschel cancelled out Tigran Barseghyan's effort in a 1-1 draw in Vaduz.



Italy players celebrate after booking a place in the 2020 UEFA Euro Championships with a 2-0 win over Greece in Rome on Saturday. (Inset) Sergio Ramos became the highest capped Spaniard with 168 by featuring in his side's 1-1 draw with Norway in Oslo.

PHOTO: AFP

SHORT CORNER

Shakib's Tridents lift CPL title

Barbados Tridents won their second Hero Caribbean Premier League (CPL) title as Guyana Amazon Warriors' perfect season unraveled at the worst possible moment on Saturday.

After Jonathan Carter's unbeaten 50 off 27 balls led a recovery from 108/6 in the 15th over to an imposing 171/6 from 20 overs, the Tridents bowled and fielded for their lives to defend the target by 27 runs and break the Warriors' hearts at the last, Raymon Reifer leading the way with remarkable figures of 4/24 from his four overs.

Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, who made a 15-ball 15 before being run-out while going wicketless

in his two overs conceding 18 runs, lifted his second CPL title following his triumph with the Jamaica Talawahs.

--STAR SPORT DESK

U-19s lose to Qatar 2-0

Bangladesh lost 2-0 against Qatar in their first match of the Under-19s Three Nations Cup at the Aspire Academy in Doha on Saturday night.

The hosts took the lead through Mekki Tombari in the 33rd minute before Diyab Taha wrapped up the victory for Qatar with the team's second goal in the 52nd minute.

Bangladesh will take on Kuwait in their second and final match of the tournament tonight. The tournament will end following the match between Qatar and Kuwait on Wednesday night.

--SPORTS REPORTER



Medvedev clinches fourth title

AFP, Shanghai



Daniil Medvedev conceded that he had been "invincible" after he won his fourth title of a spectacular year with a thumping 6-4, 6-1 victory over Alexander Zverev in the Shanghai Masters final yesterday.

Victory for the 23-year-old Russian, contesting a sixth final in a row, was more evidence that he is the prime contender to join the "Big Three" of Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer.

The US Open finalist is also able to say that he has finally beaten the German Zverev, another young contender at 22, at the fifth attempt.

This was an emphatic statement from the world number four, needing just 74 minutes to seal the crown and failing to drop a set all week.

Starting with Washington, DC, in July, the Russian has reached six finals



Daniil Medvedev (L) beat Alexander Zverev 6-4, 6-1 in the Shanghai Masters final in Shanghai yesterday to secure his fourth title of the year. PHOTO: AFP

on the spin -- including the US Open -- winning three of them.

Asked in what respect he has improved, Medvedev, who now

threatens to usurp Federer at three in the world, said: "I think it's everything together, something clicked in my game in the US, I don't know why."

1-1 draw in final's dress rehearsal

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh and India played out a 1-1 draw in their last round-robin match, which was also a dress rehearsal of the final of the SAFF U-15 Women's Championship, at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu yesterday.

Having already ensured their place in Tuesday's final, the two sides -- champions of the first two editions -- came into the match with unbeaten record and looking to boost confidence with a victory.

India took the lead in the 24th minute when Amisha Baxla, who was allowed acres of space inside the box, tapped home following a cross from Astam Oraon.

However, Bangladesh hit back just two minutes later through Sapna Rani, who chipped the ball into the net over the onrushing India goalkeeper Adrija Sarkhel whose drop kick was headed back by Rumi Akhter towards the box where Sapna pounced ahead of two India defenders.

Both teams had chances to take the lead thereafter, but neither could capitalise on those chances as Bangladesh goalkeeper Rupna Chakma produced a fine save to deny Sunita Munda right after the hour-mark while Sapna wasted a glorious chance at the other end in the 74th minute.

India finished the stronger of the two sides with a number of attacks in the last half hour, but Bangladesh held on to earn a point.

WORLD JR CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Swarnavo, Noshin to represent BD

SPORTS REPORTER

With the World Junior Chess (Open & Girls) Championships set to get underway from October 15th in New Delhi, a three-member contingent will depart for India today to represent Bangladesh.

The team consists of open section player Swarnavo Choudhury, girls section player WFM Noshin Anjum, both of whom are students of the Elegant Chess Academy in Uttara, and the Head of Delegation, National Instructor WCM Mahmuda Hoque Chowdhury Moly. The Bangladesh Chess Federation will cover all the team's expenses on the tour.



Swarnavo **Noshin**