

What to WATCH

SONY ESPN
2020 Euro Qualifiers
Greece v Bosnia
Live from 12:45am (Wednesday)

SONY SIX
2020 Euro Qualifiers
Denmark v Luxembourg
Live from 11:00pm

TEN 1
2020 Euro Qualifiers

Lichtenstein v Italy
Live from 12:45am (Wednesday)

TEN 2
2020 Euro Qualifiers
Finland v Armenia
Live from 10:00pm

Sweden v Spain
Live from 12:45am (Wednesday)

GASCOIGNE ON TRIAL

Former England footballer Paul Gascoigne planted a "sloppy", drunken kiss on a fellow train passenger, a court heard yesterday as he went on trial charged with sexual assault. The 52-year-old ex-Newcastle United, Spurs and Lazio midfielder told police he kissed the woman to boost her confidence, Teesside Crown Court in northeast England heard. According to prosecutor William Mousley, the woman tried to move away from her seat in front of Gascoigne due to his drunken behaviour, and after he tried to sit on her, Gascoigne then 'put his hands on her cheeks and kissed her forcibly and sloppily on the lips', said Mousley. She called the police after getting off the train, and officers called Gascoigne that night. Gascoigne, widely regarded as one of the most talented players of his generation, told police he knew what the claim was about, saying he had 'kissed a fat lass', Mousley said. He denies a single charge of sexual assault.

—AGENCIES



Poland players celebrated as if they won the tournament proper after qualifying for Euro 2020 with a 2-0 win over North Macedonia in a qualifying match in Warsaw on Sunday. Meanwhile, (inset) Luka Modric and Co could not hold on after going ahead as Croatia were eventually held to a 1-1 draw by Wales at the Cardiff City Stadium in Cardiff.

PHOTO: REUTERS



Russia, Poland join Belgium and Italy

AFP, Paris



Poland and Russia secured their places at Euro 2020 on Sunday with victories over North Macedonia and Cyprus respectively, while Germany and the Netherlands boosted their hopes of reaching the finals.

Russia eased to a 5-0 thrashing of 10-man Cyprus, with Poland joining them, Belgium and Italy in qualifying this week by seeing off North Macedonia 2-0.

Stanislav Cherchesov's Russia, who reached the World Cup quarterfinals on home soil last year, only had to avoid defeat in Nicosia to follow Belgium in qualifying from Group I.

Valencia winger Denis Cheryshev fired in a ninth-minute opener for the visitors, before Magomed Ozdoev made it two midway through the first half.

Any thoughts of a Cyprus comeback were ended in just the 28th minute when Kostas Laifis was dismissed for a nasty lunge on Russian full-back Sergei Petrov.

Striker Artem Dzyuba scored his third goal in two games in the 79th minute, before Aleksandr Golovin and Cheryshev's second completed the rout late on.

The European Championship finals, which start on June 12 next year, are being held at 12 different venues across the continent, including Saint Petersburg in Russia.

Poland went into their game against North Macedonia knowing victory would punch their ticket for the Euros.

They were forced to be patient by the visitors, who could qualify through the playoffs after winning their Nations League group if they fail to do so automatically.

But Przemyslaw Frankowski prodded home less than 60 seconds after coming on as a substitute in the 74th minute, before Akardiusz Milik made the points safe.

DUTCH SEE OFF BELARUS

Ronald Koeman's Netherlands remained at the top of Group C ahead of Germany on head-to-head record with a nervy 2-1 win over Belarus in Minsk.

Georginio Wijnaldum headed the away team in front in the 32nd minute, shortly after Denis Laptev had spurned a golden chance to give Belarus a shock lead.

The Liverpool midfielder doubled the advantage before the break with a wonderful 25-yard strike into the top corner, and although Stanislav Dragun gave Belarus hope early in the second half, the Netherlands held on with relative comfort.

Germany eased to a 3-0 victory in Estonia despite seeing Emre Can sent off in the 14th minute.

Ilkay Gundogan scored twice, with Timo Werner also finding the net.

WALES HOLD UP CROATIA

Croatia were made to wait to qualify, as Gareth Bale's strike in first-half injury time proved enough to grab a 1-1 draw for Wales in Cardiff.

Nikola Vlasic fired a low ninth-minute shot in off the post to put Croatia on course for qualification, before Bale's fine goal secured Wales a point in a bad-tempered affair.

UEFA ASSIST U-16 FOOTBALL

Four-nation event starts tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

European representatives Faroe Islands will take on Maldives while hosts Bangladesh will square off against Cambodia in the two matches on the opening day of the UEFA Assist U-16 Development Football Tournament in Dhaka tomorrow.

This is the first time Bangladesh is hosting this four-team age-level tournament, funded by the UEFA.

Bangladesh will play against Faroe Islands on Friday before taking on Maldives on Sunday as all four teams will play against each other over three match-days.

Bangladesh had participated in the under-15 version of the same tournament in Thailand last year, finishing third among four teams. They lost against Cyprus 4-0 in their first match before holding Thailand to a goalless draw and wrapping up the campaign with a 10-0 drubbing of Maldives.

'This team will be difficult to beat'

AGENCIES, Madrid



Argentina humiliated South American neighbours Ecuador 6-1 in an International Friendly in Spain on Sunday.

The Argentinians made six changes from Wednesday's 2-2 draw against Germany in German Pezzella, Walter Kannemann, Marcos Acuna, Nicolas Gonzalez, Lucas Ocampos and Lucas Alario.

The Albiceleste broke the deadlock four minutes later after Alario rose above two challenges to head beyond the reach of Pedro Ortiz following a corner.

A stroke of good fortune on 27 minutes doubled Argentina's tally with Jhon Izquierdo firing into his own net whilst attempting a clearance.

Ecuador couldn't get out of the woods as Martinez went down under a challenge from Dario Aimar six minutes later, resulting in a spot kick which Leandro Paredes tucked away for Argentina's third.

Ecuador reduced the arrears four minutes from the half-time break after a freekick from Angel Mena nestled over the wall and into the far post.

A potential turnaround was waved away within 66 minutes after Pezzella guided home Dybala's free-kick from an unguarded position.

Ecuador struggled to contain the

Argentines who grabbed a fifth eight minutes to full-time after Nicolas Dominguez capitalised on a Rodriguez assist for an easy conversion.

The two-time World champions finished in style after Ocampos reacted sharply to



a rebound from Ortiz 86 minutes in for a neat finish.

"No one is unbeatable but this is a national team that will be difficult to beat," said Argentina boss Lionel Scaloni after the match.

Scaloni went on to explain the absences of Sergio Aguero and Lionel Messi.

"Messi is not here due to suspension. Sergio Aguero is not here because he's been carrying a problem and has not been training 100 per cent with his club [Manchester City]. Surely both will be here next month."

FARAAZ GOLD CUP Gono Univ in final

SPORTS REPORTER

Gono University set up a final clash against Southeast University in the Faraaz Inter-University Gold Cup Football Tournament, beating IUBAT 3-0 in the second semifinal at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

Gono University found it hard to break down IUBAT, but once the resistance was broken after the hour-mark, it proved to be a comprehensive win.

Shakhawat Hossain gave Gono University the lead in the 61st minute heading home a rebound before Ripon Molla doubled the lead seven minutes later with a similar effort.

Ashrafur Islam wrapped up the victory in the 70th minute.

The final will take place at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on October 21.



Gono University player Resal Munsil (L) vies for the ball with an International University of Business Agriculture & Technology counterpart in a Faraaz Gold Cup encounter in Kamalapur yesterday. Resal was named player-of-the-match.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Neymar was 'not at risk'

AGENCIES, Brasilia



Brazil manager Tite has defended his decision to play Neymar in Sunday's friendly against Nigeria, saying the Paris Saint-Germain star was not at risk of injury before

the match.

He ended up having to be replaced in the 13th minute by Philippe Coutinho in the 1-1 draw in Singapore and left the field clutching his hamstring.

As per Globoesporte, Brazil's team doctor said Neymar was not in pain, a potential boost for PSG as they await a full prognosis.

According to ESPN FC, Tite said Neymar was "not at all" at risk before the match, and he would not have played him if he was:

"It would be irresponsible and incompetent of me [to play him if he was a doubt]. I would have to receive the complaints of the coach and the president of PSG if that happened."

ICC reinstates Zimbabwe

AFP, Dubai

Zimbabwe was readmitted as an International Cricket Council (ICC) member by cricket chiefs on Monday after a three-month suspension over political interference.

An ICC statement said the move was made following a meeting in Dubai involving the Zimbabwe Cricket chairman and sports minister.

"I would like to thank the Zimbabwe sports minister for her commitment to the reinstatement of Zimbabwe Cricket," said ICC chairman Shashank Manohar.



Two participants of the Walton National Special Chess tournament for the visually impaired enjoy a light moment on the second day of the three-day competition at the Chess Federation, Paltan yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

U-15s hoping to regain title

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh will look to regain the title of the SAFF U-15 Women's Championship when they square off against defending champions India in the final at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu today.

Bangladesh had won the inaugural edition, beating India 1-0 in the final two years ago while India had their revenge last year, beating their neighbours by the same margin at the Changlimithang Stadium.

Now the stage is set for the two teams to get ahead of each other, with both teams coming into the final on the back of two wins and a draw.

"We came to this tournament with a new group of players and with the target of playing good football. I believe the players met my expectation so far," coach Golam Rabbani Choton said in his pre-final evaluation.

Both India and Bangladesh experimented in their last match of the group, which ended in a 1-1 draw on Sunday. However, there should be no scope for experiments as both sides will try to earn the bragging rights of the best team of South Asia.

Choton hoped that his side will continue the good work and end the tournament on a high.

In their game on Sunday, both teams wasted a number of scoring chances. While India were the more dominant side, Bangladesh, too, had their moments and could have won had the forwards been more clinical.

"We rested a few key players for the group match against India, but despite that the team managed a draw which was a good result. I hope the team will continue its good work and produce a good result in the final as well," Choton claimed.

The match will kick off at 6:00pm.

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