

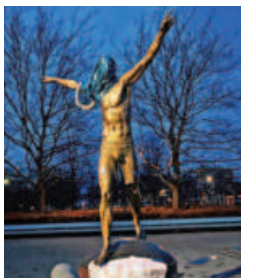
What to WATCH

SONY SIX
Australia v Pakistan
Second Test, Day Four
Live from 9:30am
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
New Zealand v England

Second Test, Day Five
Live from 4:00am (Tuesday)
STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
Bundesliga
Mainz v Eintracht
Live from 1:30am (Tuesday)

IBRA BRANDED 'JUDAS'

Barely a month ago, the great and the good of Malmo assembled outside the main football stadium to pay homage to the local boy done good. The unveiling of Zlatan Ibrahimovic's statue, which measures 3.5 metres and weighs 500kg, was attended by hundreds where Ibra was cited as an inspiration by the city's political high rollers. One controversial investment and bombastic press interview later, the statue has been vandalised, 'Judas' has been daubed on Ibrahimovic's home in Stockholm with the incident reported to the police as a suspected hate crime by Zlatan himself. "Zlatan has burned his bridges with Malmo with a nuclear bomb. The fans are taking this very personally," Kaveh Hosseinpour, vice president of the Malmo FF supporters club, tells Goal. Kaveh Hosseinpour said that when he heard that Ibra was buying a 25 per cent stake in Hammarby he, at first, thought it was April 1. But it was when the striker told Swedish newspaper Aftonbladet that Hammarby has "the greatest potential to become the biggest in Scandinavia" that the blood pressure of the Malmo faithful really began to rise.



—AGENCIES

Ronaldo rescues point for Juventus

AFP, Milan

Cristiano Ronaldo scored from the spot to rescue a 2-2 draw for Juventus at home against Sassuolo to leave the way open for Inter Milan to claim top spot in Serie A later yesterday.

Leonardo Bonucci had scored early for the eight-time reigning Serie A champions but Jeremie Boga and Francesco Caputo hit back for Sassuolo before Ronaldo's point-saving intervention.

Juventus have a two-point lead on top of Serie A but now can be overtaken by Inter Milan, who host struggling SPAL.

Sassuolo claimed their first ever point at Juventus and handed Maurizio Sarri's unbeaten champions their third draw of the season.

The side from Emilia-Romagna, are 12th in the table.

Ronaldo started up front for Juventus, having missed last weekend's league game with a slight knee problem, with Champions League hero Paulo Dybala starting on the bench.

Eighteen-year-old Stefano Turati made an impressive debut in the Sassuolo goal,

and pulled off a string of fine saves, denying Ronaldo, Higuain and Dybala late.

But Juventus counterpart Gianluigi Buffon had a difficult game in Turin as the 41-year-old, making just his fifth start this season, had a role in Caputo's goal just after the break.

Bonucci had gotten Juventus off the mark with a long-range effort on 20 minutes.

But three minutes later Boga pounced on a Caputo cross sending in past an out-rushing Buffon from an angle.

Back after the break Caputo added a second for the visitors following a mix-up between Juan Cuadrado and Matthijs De Ligt in the Juventus defence, with Buffon then fumbling the effort as it slipped into the back of the net.

Turati got down low to deny Higuain after getting his hand to send a Ronaldo free kick over the bar.

Ronaldo's penalty pulled the hosts level on 68 minutes after Filippo Romagna fouled substitute Dybala.

It was the Portuguese star's fifth Serie A goal this season.

Later, Inter host SPAL with third-placed Lazio at home against Udinese and city rivals Roma at Verona.



After Sassuolo's Jeremie Boga and Francesco Caputo put the side ahead with first-half strikes, Juventus star Cristiano Ronaldo (2nd from R) came in with a 68th minute penalty to help salvage a 2-2 draw in a Serie A encounter at the Juventus Stadium in Turin yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP



Pakistan bowler Yasir Shah may have stunned everyone with his maiden Test century on the third day of the second Test against Australia but it went in vain as the visitors were forced to follow on in Adelaide yesterday.

AFP, Adelaide

Pakistan was battling to stave off defeat in the day-night second Test against Australia yesterday after being forced to follow on, with Tim Paine's men needing seven wickets to clinch the series 2-0.

The visitors were in big trouble at 39 for three when rain forced an early end, 248 runs behind with two days left and their top order decimated.

They had resumed on an overcast and cold afternoon teetering at 96 for six in their first innings, in reply to Australia's 589 for three declared, built on the back of David Warner's monumental 335 not out.

Yasir Shah smacked a dogged maiden Test century and Babar Azam hit 97 but they were all out for 302 and still 287 runs adrift, with Mitchell Starc the hero, taking 6-66.

Australian skipper Tim Paine enforced the follow on and it started badly for Pakistan, whose first task was to survive intact for 15 minutes before the dinner break.

They failed with opener Imam-ul-Haq -- recalled after being overlooked for the first Test in Brisbane, which they lost by an innings and five runs --

out lbw for a duck to Josh Hazlewood.

It was quickly 11 for two with Starc tempting skipper Azhar Ali into a thick outside edge and Steve Smith taking a quality catch just seconds before a shower forced them off.

When they returned after 30 minutes Hazlewood bagged the key wicket of dangerous Azam for two, caught behind by Paine.

But more rain soon blew in and the umpires called it a day.

Earlier, Yasir and Azam had kept Pakistan's slim hopes alive with disciplined first innings batting.

Better known as a spin bowler, Yasir had never gone better than 42 in his previous 36 Tests, making his 113 against one of the world's most fearsome pace attacks even more remarkable.

In a scintillating spell under lights on Sunday night, left-arm Starc snapped up four quick wickets and the omens for Pakistan did not look good.

But the gloomy conditions at Adelaide Oval offered little for the bowlers during daylight hours on Sunday and Azam and Yasir took advantage.

They put on a 105-run stand and

Azam looked destined for a third Test century until Starc pounced again, with the 25-year-old edging an attempted drive to Paine behind the stumps on 97.

The very next ball Starc grabbed his sixth, with Shaheen Afridi plumb lbw before Mohammad Abbas fended off the hat-trick ball.

Abbas made a gutsy 29 before he was undone by a Pat Cummins bouncer, caught at gully by Warner.

At the other end, Yasir showed composure to compile his first-ever ton, bringing up the milestone off 192 balls, clattering 12 fours and kissing the turf in celebration.

He had a near-miss off the bowling of Marnus Labuschagne on 33. Steve Smith believed he caught him at slip and made a big appeal, but replays showed the ball fell just short of his fingertips.

He was finally out hooking a Cummins delivery to Nathan Lyon.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: First innings 589 for 3 declared.

PAKISTAN: First innings 302 (Babar 97, Yasir 113, Abbas 29; Starc 6-66, Cummins 3-83) and second innings 39 for 3; Hazlewood 2-15)

Watford sack Quique Sanchez

AFP, London



Watford sacked their second manager of the season yesterday with Quique Sanchez Flores leaving the club bottom of the Premier League table.

The Spaniard managed just one win in 10 league games in charge during his second spell at Vicarage Road after replacing Javi Gracia in September.

"Quique is a man of great integrity and it was clear how much he wanted to have a positive impact, but ultimately results have dictated our decision," said Watford chairman and CEO Scott Duxbury.

Defeat to fellow strugglers Southampton on Saturday left Watford six points from safety with just eight points from their opening 14 games of the season.

Sanchez Flores returned to Watford just three months ago having also taken charge for the 2015/16 season when the Hornets finished 13th in the Premier League and reached the semi-finals of the FA Cup.

However, he was unable to recreate that success with his only league victory coming at Norwich last month.

A run of six defeats in 12 games in all competitions also included an 8-0 thrashing at the hands of Manchester City.



SAARC CHESS C'SHIPS Shaikh takes solo lead

SPORTS REPORTER

IM Mohammad Nubairshah Shaikh of India took the solo lead in the 1st SAARC Chess Championships at the close of the seventh round at a city hotel yesterday.

Shaikh beat IM Mahmood Lodhi of Pakistan to secure six points from seven matches. On Saturday, five players were sharing the lead with five points each after the completion of the sixth round matches.

Now, seven players -- GM Ziaur Rahman, GM Eanmul Hossain Razib, FM Khandaker Aminul Islam, FM Sheikh Nasir Ahmed, CM Subrota Biswas, CM Sohel Chowdhury and India's IM Prantik Roy -- share second position with 5.5 points each while five players are jointly in third position with five points each.

Ribery suffers ankle injury

AFP, Milan

French midfielder Franck Ribery suffered serious ligament damage to his right ankle in Saturday's Serie A game against Lecce, his club Fiorentina confirmed yesterday.

Ribery, 36, had to be helped off the pitch just before half-time after Greek midfielder Panagiotis Tachtsidis' sliding tackle left the French veteran in agony.

Messi set for record sixth Ballon d'Or

AFP, Paris

The biggest names in world football will descend on Paris today for the 2019 Ballon d'Or ceremony, with Lionel Messi and USA women's World Cup superstar Megan Rapinoe tipped to leave with the honours.

It would be an enormous shock if Rapinoe did not depart the Chatelet Theatre with the women's prize as she returns to the country where she was the driving force on and off the field for the United States as they retained their title.

The suspense surrounds the identity of the men's winner, 12 months after Croatia's Luka Modric claimed the crown thanks to his exploits in dragging his country to the World Cup final and winning the Champions League with Real Madrid.

That ended a decade in which Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo had won the Ballon

but Messi already pipped him to FIFA's The Best title in September.

The 32-year-old top-scored in La Liga last season with 36 goals as Barcelona won the title. He did not have a great Copa America with Argentina, but his genius is undeniable.

"If you give the Ballon d'Or to the best player of this generation then you should give it always to Lionel Messi. That's how it is," admitted Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp.

"But if you give it to the best player of last season, then it was Virgil van Dijk. I don't know exactly how it will work but that is how I see it."

The value of individual honours in football is debatable, and the timing unsatisfactory, coming midway through the European club season.

Yet surely nobody could suggest Rapinoe



LIONEL MESSI



VIRGIL VAN DIJK



CRISTIANO RONALDO

d'Or five times each, but the smart money now is on the Barcelona man claiming number six.

There are 30 nominees in total for the prize, organised by France Football magazine and voted for by 180 journalists from around the world.

Among the names is Ronaldo, as well as several of the stars of the Liverpool side who won the Champions League, chief among them Dutch defender Virgil van Dijk.

At one point he looked like the favourite,

would not be a deserving winner of just the second women's Ballon d'Or, an award voted for by a panel of 48 journalists.

Norway's Ada Hegerberg won it in 2018 but will not retain her title after missing the World Cup.

Among the stars of that tournament to be nominated are England's Lucy Bronze, Netherlands striker Vivianne Miedema, Australia's Sam Kerr and the USA trio of Alex Morgan, Rose Lavelle and Tobin Heath.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

The British High Commission in Dhaka, in association with Standard Chartered, hosted a friendly football match in the spirit of gender equality and women empowerment at the British High Commission Club yesterday. Teams featured both male and female players at the event which was inaugurated by Deputy High Commissioner Kanbar Hossein Bor.

Root, Burns lead England fightback

AFP, Hamilton



Despite centuries to Joe Root and Rory Burns England expressed disappointment at stumps on day three of the second Test against New Zealand after losing late wickets in Hamilton yesterday.

England captain Root ended his run drought with an unbeaten 114 while Burns rode his luck to post 101.

But after they took England to 201 for two, the tourists were 269 for five at stumps and still trailing New Zealand by 106.

With only five wickets remaining and 16 overs washed out by rain in

the final session, England's vision of building a healthy lead was rapidly fading.

The tempo swung away from England when Burns was run out and New Zealand followed up with the quick wickets of Ben Stokes and Zak Crawley.

With Root and Burns putting on 177 for the third wicket, England found the "bat-long" partnership they had been searching for in their attempt to follow the same recipe New Zealand used to win the first Test.

But following the dismissal of Burns, Ben Stokes was gone for 26 while Zak Crawley made one on debut.

Root was under added pressure to

not only guide England to a position of strength but also to end his own run dearth amid suggestions the pressure of captaincy was affecting his form.

To that end, he was in no mood to take risks as he faced 258 deliveries in six hours to reach 99, before his century came on a surprise mistiming that saw an inside edge fly past the wicketkeeper to the boundary.

For New Zealand, Southee has taken two for 63 while Wagner and Matt Henry have a wicket each.

SCORES IN BRIEF
NEW ZEALAND: First innings 375
ENGLAND: First innings 269 for 5 (Burns 101, Root 114 not out, Stokes 26; Southee 2-63)