



# ARGENTINA get off the mark

AGENCIES



A first half goal from Guido Rodriguez, his first in 11 international appearances, gave Argentina a 1-0 win over Uruguay in a leaden Copa America clash on Friday. The Real Betis midfielder started for his country for the first time since June 2019 and he justified that decision when he converted a cross from Lionel Messi after 10 minutes. After the game, an elated Lionel Messi reacted and pointed out the importance of the win and the fact that there is finally some peace of mind, but he also cautioned his teammates of complacency and there is a long way to go. "Come on!!! It was important to win

today. This will give us peace of mind for what is coming will continue to be hard," tweeted an elated Messi after their win. "We've lacked a bit of luck to get victories (recently)," said Argentina's second half substitute Angel Di Maria. "Today we managed to do that against a direct rival who are always contenders for the Copa America." "Brazil are the best team (so far)," he added. "We're taking it step by step and the dream is alive, I hope we can make it come true. Argentina are always a candidate (for the title) but Brazil are at home and are doing things very well." Argentina's next game is against Paraguay on Tuesday 6am (Bangladesh Time) while Brazil will meet Colombia in their next match on Thursday at 6am (Bangladesh Time).

### HIGHLIGHTS

- > The result extended Argentina's unbeaten run to 15 games since they lost in the semi-final of the last Copa America in 2019.
- > Argentina are now undefeated in 5 games against Uruguay in the Copa America (4 wins, 1 draw). Uruguay's last win was 2-0 in the 1989 edition.
- > With this important win Argentina move on to 4 points to sit joint top with Chile in Group A. Brazil are leading Group B with maximum six points and Colombia are in second position with four points. The top four teams of each group will advance to the knockout stages of the 10-team competition.



### THE FLYING SIKH NO MORE

Indian athletics trailblazer Milkha Singh, the man dubbed "The Flying Sikh" for his Olympic and Asian Games exploits, died Friday at the age of 91 after contracting Covid-19. Singh won gold medals at the 1958 and 1962 Asian Games. However, he shot to fame at the 1960 Olympics in Rome when he finished fourth in the 400m after a photo-finish was required to decide the winner.



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## Rain ruins BDPL games



The Super League stage of the Bangladesh Dhaka Premier Division T20 League (BDPL) was scheduled to kick off yesterday but unfortunately all three Super League matches at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur and one match of the relegation league in Savar were abandoned due to incessant rain. Only Prime Doleshwar and Gazi Group shared points but the other matches were abandoned without a ball being bowled and are set to be rescheduled soon.

## BPL to resume sans spectators



Following the suspension after May 11 due to Eid ul Fitr and the national football team's international engagement, the second phase of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) will resume from June 25 at four different venues (Dhaka, Tongi, Munshiganj and Cumilla) but will be held without spectators maintaining Covid-19 protocols- as decided in an emergency meeting of the league committee chaired by BFF's senior vice-president Abdus Salam Murshedy at the Bangladesh Football Federation House yesterday.



## KOHLI HELPS INDIA REBUILD

India captain Virat Kohli took on a rebuilding job for his team on Saturday, taking them to 134 for 3 before bad light stopped the match for the second time, just after tea, on the first day of play in the rain-marred World Test Championship (WTC) final against New Zealand at the Ageas Bowl on Saturday. Trent Boult dismissed the dour Cheteshwar Pujara after lunch before Kohli combined with deputy Ajinkya Rahane to try to shore up the innings. Kohli was batting on 40, while Rahane was on 22. After persistent rain washed out the entire opening day on Friday, New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson unsurprisingly elected to field after winning the toss. Under an overcast sky, India scored 69 runs but lost both their set openers in an evenly balanced morning session. Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill raised 62 runs for the opening partnership, negating the moving ball by standing outside the crease. Organisers have allocated one reserve day to make up for lost time.

PHOTO: REUTERS

### EURO 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

## Scots delight in solid display

AGENCIES, London

Suggestions from English fans that celebrating a goalless draw is ridiculous might hold a little more weight had their meeting against Scotland yesterday night not been at Wembley, had England not been tipped as favourites for Euro 2020 by their media ahead of the tournament and had English pundits not spent the week talking about how sure they were they would win the game. Celebrations were fervent as a horde of an estimated 20,000 Scots descended on London, although they earned respect before leaving as they cleaned up their own mess. Friday's clash was the 115th meeting between the British neighbors and came 149 years after their first, a 0-0 draw in front of around 4,000 fans at Glasgow's West of Scotland Cricket Club, which is recognized by FIFA as football's first ever international fixture. Mark Cumberworth, a 58-year-old fan from Essex, told the BBC that he was disappointed with the result. "It's almost like we've settled for a draw, which isn't the worst result in the world. Scotland have played well. England have no chance [of winning the Euros] playing like this." Two-time Grand Slam winner Andy Murray, who was in attendance, even got in on the fun, drawing the ire of English fans on social media as he tweeted: "Great fun tonight...fair play to England...they worked hard...defended deep and deserved to hang onto the draw in the end."



Attila Fiola

PHOTO: TWITTER

## France held by passionate Hungary

REUTERS, BUDAPEST

Hungary took a shock lead against France in a pulsating second Group F match in the European Championship on Saturday, but Antoine Griezmann equalised for a 1-1 draw inside the packed Puskas Arena. The result put France on four points to provisionally top the group until Portugal, who won their first game, play bottom side Germany later on Saturday. Hungary are third with a point. The hosts were dealt an early blow when their skipper and most experienced goal scorer Aadam Szalai was substituted

after 26 minutes following a blow to the head. The dazed striker was able to walk off, however, and down the tunnel on his own. But roared on by over 60,000 fans, they took the lead in first half injury time when Attila Fiola combined with Roland Sallai before the wing-back raced through on goal to beat goalkeeper Hugo Lloris with a low shot at the near post. France equalised in the 66th minute when Kylian Mbappe stole in behind the defence to latch on to a bouncing long ball from Lloris and though his cross was only half cleared, Griezmann was on hand to find the back of the net.