

SONY SIX, TEN 1 & TEN 2

Copa America 2021
Uruguay vs Bolivia
Live from 3:00 am (Friday)
Chile vs Paraguay

Live from 6:00 am (Friday)

T SPORTS & GAZI TV
Dhaka Premier Division T20
Mohammedan vs Gazi Group

Live from 9:00 am

Abahani vs Sheikh Jamal
Live from 2:00 pm
Prime Bank vs Prime Doleswar
Live from 6:30 pm

T SPORTS & TEN 1

Pakistan Super League Final
Multan Sultans vs Peshawar Zalmi
Live from 10:00 pm

'Modric never gives up'

AFP, Glasgow

After a 23-year wait to qualify for a major tournament, Scotland's Euro 2020 experience lasted just eight days after a 3-1 defeat to Croatia extinguished their hopes of reaching the last 16.

A masterclass from Croatia's Luka Modric sent Steve Clarke's men packing from the tournament with a reminder of the class it takes to succeed at this level.

"They were unbelievable tonight, Modric especially," said Arsenal defender Kieran Tierney. "I think his performance was incredible."

Three years ago, most of Scotland cheered as Croatia beat England to reach the



World Cup final.

On Tuesday, fans of the Three Lions had their revenge as they celebrated Scotland's exit.

Modric is the only man since 2007 to deny Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo the Ballon d'Or and showed why he belongs in such exalted company, receiving the ball on the edge of the box and fired into the top corner with the outside of his right foot.

"No one is sure how Luka manages that," Croatia boss Zlatko Dalic said of the Real Madrid midfielder.

"We expect that Luka will go down, lose his strength, but he is the force that pulls the whole team. He never gives up."



NEW ZEALAND win the ultimate Test

AFP, Southampton



New Zealand enjoyed the greatest triumph in their cricket history as they beat India by eight wickets in the inaugural World Test Championship final at Southampton on Wednesday.

Two years on from their agonising Super Over loss to England in the 50-over World Cup final at Lord's, the Blackcaps claimed their first major global title.

Set a modest target of 139 in 53 overs, New Zealand, whose only previous men's title in an International Cricket Council tournament was their 2000 Champions Trophy one-day final win over India, finished on 140-2 with plenty of time to spare in a match extended into a reserve

SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA: First innings-217 all out in 92.1 overs (Kohli 44, Rahane 49; Jamieson 5-31) and 170 all out in 73 overs (Sharma 30, Pant 41; Southee 4-48, Boult 3-39, Jamieson 2-30).

NEW ZEALAND: 249 all out in 99.2 overs (Latham 30, Conway 54, Williamson 49; Ishant 3-48, Shami 4-76) and 140-2 in 45.5 overs (Williamson 52 not out, Taylor 47 not out; Ashwin 2-17).

RESULT: New Zealand won by eight wickets.

PLAYER-OF-THE-MATCH: Kyle Jamieson.

sixth day following two days lost to rain.

Off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin reduced New Zealand to 44-2 but New Zealand captain Kane Williamson and Ross Taylor, the team's most-experienced batsmen, settled any lingering nerves in an unbroken stand of 96.

Williamson, who won plaudits

for the sporting way he dealt with defeat in the 2019 World Cup final, was 52 not out following his first-innings 49, with Taylor -- who hit the winning boundary -- unbeaten on 47.

In a match in which bowlers held sway it was New Zealand's all-pace attack that did most damage Wednesday by dismissing India for just 170 in their second innings despite blue skies providing the best batting

conditions of the game.

Tim Southee took wickets at both ends of the innings in a return of 4-48 in 19 overs, with longtime new-ball partner Trent Boult striking twice in an over during his 3-39. And the towering Kyle Jamieson followed his first-innings 5-31, by snaring India captain Virat Kohli for the second time in the match during a miserly 2-30 in 24 overs.

"Very special feeling, a couple of close ones [in ICC finals], nice to get one under the belt. I've been part of [NZ cricket] for a short while, it's a very special feeling, the first time in our history we've come away with a world title."

KANE WILLIAMSON, NEW ZEALAND CAPTAIN

"First up, big congratulations to Kane and the whole team. They showed great consistency and heart to pull out a result in just over three days, sticking to their processes to put us under pressure. They deserved the win."

VIRAT KOHLI, INDIA CAPTAIN

Shakib returns for all formats

Shamim the only new face

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan was included across all three formats as selectors yesterday announced the squads for the upcoming tour of Zimbabwe.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Nurul Hasan was also named in all three formats while young Shamim Hossain proved to be only new face, breaking into the T20I side.

The Tigers are scheduled to board a flight on Monday to take part in one Test, three ODIs and three T20Is against Zimbabwe.

Shamim caught the eye with his hard-hitting ability in the lower-middle order. The left-hander was part of the Bangladesh U-19 World Cup-winning side and has scored 181 runs in ten innings for Prime Doleswar in the Dhaka Premier League so far at a strike rate close to 150.

"Obviously I am happy, but I think getting a chance in the team is not the end. It's important to utilise this opportunity. Mainly I bat at number six and my aim will be to play the role of a finisher and contribute to the

TEST SQUAD:

Mominul (Captain), Tamim, Shadman, Saif, Najmul, Mushfiqur, Shakib, Liton, Yasir, Nurul, Miraz, Taijul, Nayeem, Jayed, Taskin, Ebadot, Shoriful.

ODI SQUAD:

Tamim (captain), Naim, Liton, Shakib, Mushfiqur, Mahmudullah, Mosaddek, Mithun, Afif, Nurul, Miraz, Taijul, Saifuddin, Mustafizur, Taskin, Rubel, Shoriful.

T20 SQUAD:

Mahmudullah (Captain), Tamim, Naim, Liton, Shakib, Soumya, Afif, Shamim, Nurul, Nasum, Mahedi, Aminul, Saifuddin, Mustafizur, Taskin, Shoriful.

team," an elated Shamim told media yesterday.

Soumya Sarkar was dropped from the ODI side but found a place in the T20I team while Mustafizur Rahman was named exclusively in the white-ball formats while left-handed Najmul Hossain was picked only for the Test side.

Off-spinner Nayeem Hasan was also included in the Test side alongside Nurul, who played his last Test back in 2018 against the West Indies. Shakib returned to the Test team for the first time since taking leave from the last series in Sri Lanka to take part in the Indian Premier League.

Off-spinning all-rounder Mahedi Hasan was dropped from the ODI side while Nurul, Taijul Islam and Rubel Hossain made comebacks. Nurul played his last ODI in December 2016 in New Zealand.

Tamim Iqbal, who took a break from the last T20I series in New Zealand, expectedly returned. However, experienced wicketkeeper-batsman Mushfiqur Rahim will not feature in the T20I series in Zimbabwe after asking for leave.

EURO 2020 HIGHLIGHTS



Party time for Spain

REUTERS

Spain coach Luis Enrique this week described his side as a champagne bottle about to be popped open, and it was party time in Seville on Wednesday night as the hosts thrashed Slovakia 5-0 in a performance that will give them belief that they can win the Euros.

Spain finished second in their European Championship Group E, having been criticised for starting slowly in their first two games, a goalless stalemate with Sweden and a 1-1 draw against Poland, and they narrowly missed out on topping the group after a late goal for Sweden that flipped the ranks around.

They also had some good fortune against a very poor Slovakia, not least two comical own goals. But the match still marked a vast improvement for

Spain and will do plenty to lift the mood in Seville and beyond.

This Spanish team may not have the individual talent of previous sides, particularly the all-conquering squad that collected two Euros titles and the World Cup between 2008 and 2012, but they have a workmanlike quality that has made them hard to beat. And now they have added goals.

They have lost just once in their last 27 matches dating back to November 2018 -- the only blemish a 1-0 defeat against Ukraine in Kiev. Since Luis Enrique took charge there have been a pair of stunning 6-0 wins over Germany and Croatia.

But there have been some difficult days too with critics swirling, especially after Luis Enrique failed to pick a single Real Madrid player for the tournament, which put him in

the firing line of many eager to write the team off at the slightest sign of weakness.

"Luis Enrique was born an optimist and will die an optimist," he told reporters ahead of Wednesday's game. "I'm 100% convinced and I have the sensation that we are like a bottle of champagne about to be uncorked. I'm sure that once we win, we'll see our very best."

With Pedri a master in the midfield, providing a supply of pinpoint passes to the front three, Spain found their mojo against an admittedly woeful Slovakia just when they needed a party-starter.

Croatia now lie in wait in the last 16, and it will be a step up in opponent, but Luis Enrique will at least feel his side are beginning to believe a fourth Euros title is possible.

STERLING undaunted by heavyweight clash

AFP, London

Raheem Sterling said England were braced for a heavyweight last-16 clash at Euro 2020 after topping Group D with a 1-0 win against the Czech Republic on Tuesday.

The victory at Wembley means England are likely to face either world champions France, holders Portugal or Germany in the knockout phase.

England were heavily criticised for their toothless performance in the 0-0 draw against Scotland but found more of an attacking edge in their final group game.

"I think there are positives from the game," Sterling, who also scored England's only other goal of the group phase in the 1-0 opening win against Croatia, told ITV.

"We kept the ball better today. It gave us more attacking options. We got in the gaps really well, played some and got the goal we needed."

Sterling praised man-of-the-match Bukayo Saka.

"It is brilliant to have these players around you who can create goals," he said. "Different players are needed for different games and those two that came in were massive and did what they needed to do. 'If you don't concede goals you win football matches. You just need to score at the other end. People were disappointed in the Scotland game a few days ago but we didn't concede."

"The most important thing was to win the group. It is tournament football and it will be difficult but we need to do what we are doing."

The Manchester City forward was undaunted about the likelihood of a stern test in the last 16 at Wembley next week. "At some point you have to face the best teams," he said. "It is about challenging yourselves."



'It was a rollercoaster emotionally'

Reuters

Sweden cruised into a two-goal lead against Poland on Wednesday before being pegged back by a Robert Lewandowski brace then notching a last-ditch winner to top Group E and send their opponents home from Euro 2020.

Winger Emil Forsberg set the Swedes on their way with two goals, including the second fastest strike in European Championship history, before Viktor Claesson stepped up in the fourth minute of stoppage time to seal a 3-2 victory.

"It was a rollercoaster emotionally," match-winner Claesson told Sweden's TV4. "We'll hopefully get a slightly easier opponent in the last 16."

Sweden will next face one of the third-placed sides from Groups B, C or D - Finland, Ukraine or the Czech Republic - in Glasgow on June 29.

Spain, second following their 5-0 win over Slovakia in the other Group E match, face Croatia in Copenhagen a day earlier.

It was a

heartbreaking end to Poland's campaign following a thrilling fightback in which they twice drew level through talismanic skipper Robert Lewandowski, whose 84th minute equaliser for 2-2 gave them a surge of hope.