

England thrash Serbia, Haaland stars in World Cup qualifying

Tuchel's side responds to criticism with emphatic win as Haaland scores five for Norway

● England hammer Serbia 5-0 in Belgrade

● Norway thrash Moldova 11-1 at home

● France edge Iceland 2-1 in Paris

● Portugal beat Hungary 3-2 late

AFP | Paris

England sent out a warning to their World Cup rivals with a brilliant 5-0 thrashing of Serbia in qualifying on Tuesday, while Erling Haaland scored five as Norway emphatically maintained their 100-percent record.

Elsewhere in Europe, Portugal and France overturned deficits to make it back-to-back wins to open their bids to reach next year's tournament in the United States, Mexico and Canada.

The quality of Thomas Tuchel's England was questioned after a laborious 2-0 win over Andorra at Villa Park on Saturday, but they produced a resounding answer.

"The players did excellent. The credit goes to them, they did amazing. That's the bar," manager Tuchel told ITV Sport.

England dominated the early stages in Belgrade and took the lead in the 33rd minute when Harry Kane headed home his 74th international goal from a Declan Rice corner.

The visitors doubled their advantage two minutes later, as



England striker #15 Morgan Rogers (C, left) and Serbia's midfielder #17 Ivan Ilic (C, right) fight for the ball

Noni Madueke raced onto an excellent flick-on from Morgan Rogers, kept his composure and dinked the ball beyond Serbia goalkeeper Djordje Petrovic.

Seven minutes into the second half, Ezri Konsa pounced on a loose ball after a free-kick to score his first international goal. Another Rice set-piece provided England's fourth, as Marc Guehi slid to meet his free-kick, given for the foul on Kane by Nikola Milenkovic which earned the Nottingham Forest centre-back a straight red card.

Substitute Marcus Rashford rounded off a perfect night for his team with a late spot-kick.

England could qualify for an eighth-successive World Cup in their next Group K game when

they visit Latvia next month.

The other match in the group saw Albania leapfrog Serbia into second place, edging out Latvia 1-0 in Tirana.

Norway score 11

Norway produced the perfect response to second-placed Italy's dramatic 5-4 victory over Israel on Monday with a 11-1 thumping of Moldova to make it five wins from five in Group I.

Haaland was the star of the show, scoring a first-half hat-trick before nodding in his fourth goal not long after the restart.

Martin Odegaard grabbed a goal and two assists. Felix Myhre found the net early on after being picked out by Haaland.

Rangers midfielder Thelo Aasgaard came off the bench to add a seventh, although Moldova did grab themselves a consolation with a Leo Ostigard own goal, only for Aasgaard to score again.

Haaland stepped aside when Norway were awarded a penalty shortly afterwards, allowing the 23-year-old Aasgaard to complete an 11-minute hat-trick.

There were further goals for Haaland and Aasgaard as Moldova crumbled.

Norway, who downed four-time world champions Italy earlier in qualifying and are bidding to qualify for a first World Cup since 1998, moved six points clear of the Azzurri having played a game more.

Iceland made a dream start



Erling Haaland scored five goals in Norway's 11-1 demolition of Moldova, but graciously stepped aside to let 23-year-old substitute Thelo Aasgaard complete a 11-minute hat-trick from the penalty spot



Today is a statement victory against a difficult opponent in a difficult environment. There was no negative attitude on the pitch. For me, it was teamwork in it's purest form. Then we played football to a high level. The players did excellent. The credit goes to them, they did amazing. That's the bar

THOMAS TUCHEL

only mistake. We created lots of chances but we are capable of doing better," said Deschamps.

Portugal beat Hungary

Portugal clinched a 3-2 win over Hungary at the Puskas Arena, backing up their opening Group F victory, 5-0 against Armenia last week.

Barnabas Varga gave the home side the lead before Bernardo Silva's leveller for Portugal.

Cristiano Ronaldo netted a record-extending 141st international goal with a spot-kick just before the hour.

Varga thought he had grabbed a point for Hungary, only for Joao Cancelo to snatch all three for Portugal with four minutes left.

"I loved the attitude and focus -- we just needed to control the game and take it where we wanted," said Portugal coach Roberto Martinez.

Hungary slipped to third in the standings behind Armenia who beat Ireland 2-1.

De Minaur says Australia ready to snap Davis Cup title drought

AFP | Sydney

Alex de Minaur says his ultimate tennis goal is to win the Davis Cup, with the world number eight confident Australia have the goods to secure their first title since 2003.

Australia have lifted the trophy 28 times, second only to the United States, but going the distance has long proved elusive.

They lost in the semi-finals last year to Jannik Sinner's Italy, having been runners-up in the two editions before that to Italy and Canada respectively.

Australia, captained once again by Lleyton Hewitt, host Belgium this weekend in a second-round qualifier at Sydney's



Alex de Minaur reacts during a match

Ken Rosewall Arena.

"These weeks are the funnest in my schedule, that's for sure, because it's a very lonely sport throughout the year," said De Minaur, who lost in the US Open quarter-finals last week.

"For me, the ultimate goal is to lift the title. That's been a priority of mine for my whole career. That's why I prioritise these weeks, no matter when it was in the schedule."

With seven singles players and seven doubles players ranked inside the ATP top 100, Australia have the firepower to contend for a 29th crown and De Minaur believes they are well-equipped to challenge once again.

USA blank Japan while South Koreans draw Mexico in friendlies



Alex Zendejas, right, shoots the first goal for the United States past Japanese defender Yuto Nagatomo

AFP | Washington

Columbus, Ohio.

"Just waiting for my moment," said Zendejas, a winger for Mexico's Club America. "It's crazy to take all this in. I didn't expect to get called up. Just trying to take advantage of every opportunity."

Alex Zendejas and Folarin Balogun scored to give the United States a 2-0 victory over Japan while Mexico battled South Korea to a 2-2 draw in international football friendlies.

Zendejas scored in the 30th minute and Monaco striker Balogun added an insurance goal in the 64th minute as the Americans improved to 7-6 with one drawn this year with the triumph before 20,192 at

In another football friendly on US soil, AC Milan striker Santiago Gimenez netted the equalizer in the fourth minute of stoppage time to lift Mexico into a draw with South Korea at Nashville, Tennessee.

Jamaicans beat Trinidad and Tobago in World Cup qualifying

AFP | Miami

Jamaica's "Reggae Boyz" kept their group lead by blanking Trinidad and Tobago 2-0 in a 2026 World Cup qualifier on Tuesday while Curacao defeated Bermuda 3-2.

Jamaica's Bailey Cadamarteri opened the scoring in the 36th

minute off a headed pass from Greg Leigh and Jon Russell added an insurance goal in the 57th minute at Kingston.

The "Reggae Boyz" had opened with a 4-0 win at Bermuda in CONCACAF (North American) World Cup final qualifying and lead Group B on six points.

With regional powers Canada, Mexico and the United States co-hosting the 2026 World Cup, CONCACAF qualifying was changed so the final round features three groups of four with the group winners advancing to the World Cup and two second-place teams reaching inter-confederation playoffs.

The Soca Warriors, who opened with a goal-less draw against Curacao, looked to have scored in the 29th and 63rd minutes but video review each time ruled no goal by Trinidad and Tobago's Levi Garcia.

Jamaica improved to 21-15 with 12 drawn in the all-time rivalry.