

SPORTS
sports

Mbappe leads France rout

Cristiano Ronaldo hobbled off in Portugal's disappointing draw with Serbia

● England hit five in consecutive qualifying matches as Ross Barkley scored twice

AFP | Paris

Mesmerising Kylian Mbappe led France's rout of Iceland in Euro 2020 qualifiers Monday, but Cristiano Ronaldo hobbled off in Portugal's disappointing draw with Serbia and racist abuse overshadowed five-star England in Montenegro.

Mbappe scored one and set up two more as the reigning world champions crushed Iceland 4-0 at the Stade de France to move top of Group H in Euro 2020 qualifying.

The result gives France, 4-1 winners over Moldova in their Euro opener, six points from their first two matches and puts them ahead of Turkey, who also won 4-0 on Monday, on goal difference.

Samuel Umititi, Olivier Giroud, Mbappe and Antoine Griezmann all scored as Iceland struggled to cope with a totally dominant France side.

Giroud's 35th France goal moved him into third on the all-time list of French scorers, the Chelsea striker now trailing only Michel Platini (41) and Thierry Henry (51).

In Group A, England, fresh from a 5-0 demolition of the Czech Republic in which Ra-



France's forward Kylian Mbappe runs with the ball

heem Sterling hit a hat-trick, were forced to come from behind in a 5-1 win over Montenegro.

But another impressive victory for the Three Lions was overshadowed by allegations of racist abuse in Podgorica.

Sterling celebrated the visitors' fifth goal by cupping his ears towards the home fans.

"Best way to silence the haters (and yeah I mean racists)," Sterling tweeted alongside a photo of his celebration.

England manager Gareth Southgate said he heard racist chants aimed at Danny Rose and promised to report the issue to UEFA.

"I definitely heard abuse at

Danny Rose when he got booked at the end of the game. There is no doubt in my mind it happened. We will make sure that is reported to UEFA because it's not acceptable," said Southgate. "We've got to make sure we support our players."

English comeback

Marko Vesovic stunned England early on, but after drawing on their two previous visits to Podgorica, England showed why their current crop are among the favourites to be European champions next year.

Michael Keane's header restored parity before Ross Barkley's double either side of half-time put the visitors in

command and Harry Kane and Sterling rounded off a comprehensive victory.

It was a different story in Lisbon as Fernando Santos' reigning European champions Portugal, held to a 0-0 draw at home by Ukraine in their Group B opener, notched up a second draw, 1-1 at home to Serbia.

If the result wasn't disappointing enough, captain Ronaldo hobbled off after 30 minutes with no word on whether the five-time Ballon d'Or winner would be fit for play for his club Juventus in the first leg of their Champions League quarter-final at Ajax on April 10.

Serbia's Ajax playmaker Du-



Giroud scored his 35th France goal which moved him into third on the all-time list of French scorers

from the penalty spot.

Ronaldo was denied an equaliser two minutes later as his effort was very well saved Marko Dmitrovic.

The 156-time international then left the field after he pulled up chasing a ball on the left wing.

He received quick treatment from members of the medical team before returning to action but was replaced minutes later.

In his absence, Porto's Danilo Pereira netted a 42nd-minute equaliser, hammering a shot from outside the box into the top corner past a helpless Dmitrovic.

Elsewhere, Turkey made it two wins from two in Group H, like France, with a 4-0 victory at home over Moldova.

Two first-half goals in the space of three minutes thanks to Hasan Ali Kaldırım and Cenk Tosun did the damage at Eskisehir.

Shaikha Hayat for top women sports meeting

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) board member, chairwoman of the Women's Sport Committee and chairwoman of the Women's Committee at Union of Arab National Olympic Committees Shaikha Hayat bint Abdulaziz Al Khalifa will chair the International Conference of Arab Women's Sports starting today in Cairo.

The four-day conference is organised by the Egyptian Sports Association under the patronage of Prince Talal Bin Badr Saud Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, President of the Arabian Sports Council and Union of Arab National Olympic Committees.

The conference is witnessing an unprecedented demand for participation from across the Arab world, where a large number of researchers and academics are registered to submit research papers that discuss the many aspects of achievement in women's sports in the Arab world.

During the conference, a number of Egyptian senior officials and figures are trying to uncover the latest preparations for organizing the fifth edition of the course and the desired goals as well as reviewing the details of the competitions to motivate all Arab countries to participate in the largest Arab sporting events.

The conference will also discuss Egypt's key role in supporting and promoting women's sport as one of the most important countries in support of women's sport in the Arab world.

BOC plans to organize second Baby Games



Kids in action during previous year's Baby Games

TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain is gearing up to host the Kingdom's second edition of the Baby Games next month, the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) announced yesterday.

The Second Bahrain Baby Games is organized by the BOC from April 13 to 16, with kindergartens from all around the nation expecting to engage in a number of sports activities.

This event will feature a variety of sports contest for children in an attempt to create an awareness among youngsters to practice sports exer-

cises, and promote the Olympic principles and values at a young age.

A preparatory committee, comprising representatives of the BOC projects directorate, had a number of coordination meetings with officials from the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Social Solidarity to set up a comprehensive plan in preparation for the second edition of the games.

The organisers also approved a plan to perform field visits to a number of kindergartens in Bahrain to meet up with the children taking part in this five-day sports gathering.

Climax Zalmi edge BDS Bassali to excel in ETS league

TDT | Manama

Climax Zalmi defeated BDS Bassali by 4 wickets in the ETS Division A league organized by Cricket Bahrain Association. Batting first BDS Bassali posted 123 runs. Imran Javed top scored with 38 runs. Lalit Lal claimed 4 wickets for Climax Zalmi. In reply Climax Zalmi chased target for loss of 6 wickets. Mansoor Mohd top scored with 57 runs.

BCC defeated BCC A by 39 runs in another fixture. Batting first BCC posted 195 runs. Adnan Butt



Ali Dawood

Lalit

Mansoor

Tahir Dar

top scored with 54 runs. Rashid Hussain claimed 3 wickets for BCC A. In reply BCC A could only manage 156 runs. Sarfraz Ali top scored with 79 runs. Ali Dawood

claimed 5 wickets for BCC Exelon Young Boys defeated Indian Blues by 36 runs in another fixture. Batting first Exelon Young Boys posted 200

runs. Tahir Dar top scored with 85 runs. In reply Indian Blues could only manage 164 runs. Tahir Darr claimed 4 wickets to cap off allround performance.

Sterling calls for stadium bans as racist abuse overshadows England

AFP | Podgorica, Montenegro

Rahem Sterling believes UEFA should punish alleged racist chanting aimed at England players in Monday's 5-1 win over Montenegro in Podgorica with a stadium closure.

Manchester City's Sterling celebrated the visitors' fifth goal by cupping his ears towards the home fans on a night when another impressive performance to start Euro 2020 qualifying by the Three Lions was overshadowed.



England's forward Raheem Sterling celebrates after scoring the fifth goals of his team

"I just want to show them you need more than that to upset us and stop us," Sterling told Sky Sports.

"It's 2019 now, I keep saying it. It's a shame to see this going on and we can only bring awareness to the situation.

"It's now time for the people in charge to put a real stamp on it because you can fine someone, but what is that going to do?"

"You've got to make it a bit harder, punish fans that can't come to games. Do something that's going to make them think twice. If their team can't play with fans, it's going to be difficult."

Sterling also tweeted a photo of his celebration with the message: "Best way to silence the haters (and yeah I mean racists)."