

Bavuma, Harmer anchor SA victory in Kolkata Test

Kolkata, (UNI)

Temba Bavuma's resilient 55 runs anchored South Africa's fightback as the Proteas defeated India by 30 runs in a thrilling first Test of the series at Eden Gardens here on Sunday.

India, missing Shubman Gill due to injury, were bowled out for 93 in their second innings, falling short of the 123-run target required to take a 100-run lead.

At lunch on Day 3, India were 10 for 2 in their second innings, needing 114 runs to overtake South Africa, who had been dismissed for 153 in their second innings following a first innings total of 159. India had posted 189 in their first innings, giving them a slender advantage early in the match.

South Africa's second innings saw Bavuma lead from the front, facing 122 balls and hitting four boundaries. Corbin Bosch contributed a handy 25, while extras added 11 to the total. Regular wickets and dis-



plined Indian bowling ensured that South Africa never built substantial partnerships.

Mohammed Siraj emerged as the standout bowler for India, claiming two wickets, including the final dis-

missals of Keshav Maharaj (0) and Simon Harmer (7) in a dramatic last over with a perfect yorker.

Jasprit Bumrah also struck key blows, dismissing Bosch and breaking a stubborn middle-order resis-

tance, while Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav bowled tightly, restricting scoring opportunities.

Bavuma held the innings together with patience, but the real game-changer was the way Harmer and Maharaj built pressure. Harmer's flight and subtle drift forced the errors, and Maharaj's variations in the final overs were surgical. India were under the pump the entire day.

India's second innings began under immediate pressure. Marco Jansen struck early, removing KL Rahul for 1 and Yashasvi Jaiswal for a duck, leaving India 2 down for just one run.

Washington Sundar and Dhruv Jurel offered brief resistance, but wickets continued to tumble. Jurel fell for 13, while Rishabh Pant, Ravindra Jadeja, and Sundar were dismissed through a combination of tight bowling and sharp fielding.

Harmer played a decisive role in India's collapse, claiming crucial wickets in the second innings.

India brace for fierce & competitive game in Bangladesh

Dhaka, (UNI)

The Indian senior men's team arrived in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on Saturday evening, three days before their AFC Asian Cup 2027 Qualifiers Final Round match against the hosts.

Despite both teams being out of contention for qualification, Blue Tigers goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu said that the rivalry will remain intact.

"It won't change the competitiveness or the fierceness of the game. It's always a big game for them and for the people of Bangladesh because it's against India," said Sandhu, who has played three matches against the neighbours at the senior level in the past.

"We need to be prepared mentally and physically because it's always a tough game. It might not be the nicest game to watch. It might be scrappy, and we as a team need to be ready for any challenge. We

need to be tough out there when we face them," Sandhu added.

Defender Sandesh Jhingan, who captained India when these two sides last met in March's reverse fixture in Shillong, said, "Our expectations are very simple. Play to our full potential, and stick to the system for as long as we can during the game. If we can do that, the rest will follow. We'll work hard and hopefully get a win this time."

Winger Lallianzuala Chhangte is the only player in the current squad who has represented the Blue Tigers on Bangladeshi soil before — that was in the 2018 SAFF Championship, where he scored one goal.

But Jhingan and Sandhu have played in Bangladesh before for Indian age-group teams and Bengaluru FC.

Jhingan recalled, "I've played here before with the Under-23s (during the AFC U23 Championship qualifiers in 2015), and also at club level.

Payas, Swastika shine as champions crowned in National TT

Panchkula, (UNI): The fourth UTT National Ranking Table Tennis Championships came to a fitting close today at the Tau Devi Lal Indoor Stadium here, where Delhi's Payas Jain and PSPB's Swastika Ghosh claimed the men's and women's singles titles respectively.

Both secured their first crowns of the season with hard-fought 4-2 wins, displaying grit and precision in finals that swung repeatedly before settling in their favour.

In the Men's Singles final, Payas Jain held off a spirited challenge from Akash Pal of the Railways, prevailing 12-10, 10-12, 7-11, 11-9.

11-7, 11-8. The fluctuating scores reflected the intensity of the contest, with Payas raising his game just when needed to close out the last three games.

The Women's Singles final delivered similar drama. Swastika Ghosh edged past Syndrela Das of West Bengal in a gripping six-game battle.

Among the youth categories, Priyanuj Bhattacharyya (Assam) captured the Youth Boys U-19 title, defeating M. Balamurugan 4-1, showing superior composure in the closing stretch.

In the Youth Girls U-19 final, Syndrela Das of West Bengal bounced back strongly, producing a commanding 4-0 win over Shriya Anand of Tamil Nadu, sealing her title dominantly with a 4-0 triumph.

Akash advanced to the final with a commanding 4-1 victory over Manush Shah. After splitting the first two games, Akash raised his intensity, taking control with sharp attacking play to close out the match 3-1 against the RBI paddler.

In the other semifinal, Payas produced a clean, composed performance to defeat Maharashtra's Jash Modi in straight games. Despite some close moments—particularly a tight second game—Payas maintained consistency to win 4-0.



Spain coach respects Turkiye ahead of last World Cup qualifier

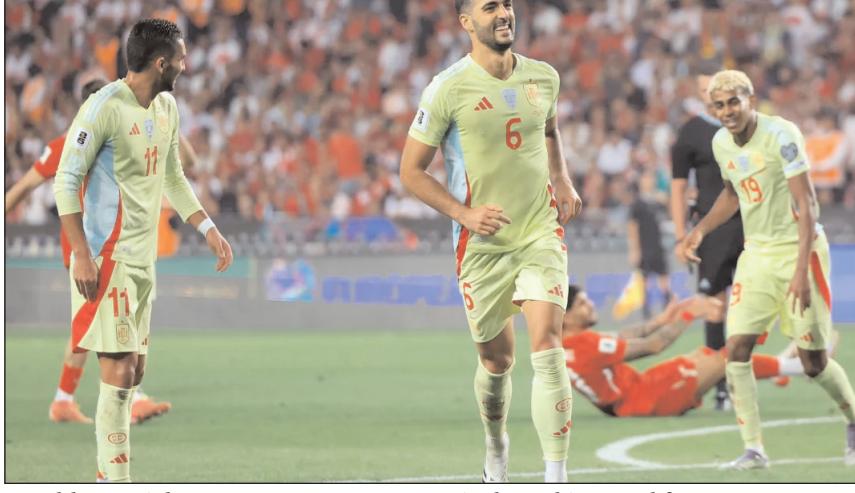
Madrid, (UNI)

Spain coach Luis de la Fuente has shown his respect towards Turkiye ahead of their final qualifier although his side has all-but sealed its place in the 2026 FIFA World Cup with a 4-0 win in Georgia on Saturday.

Despite missing players such as Lamine Yamal, Nico Williams and Pedri, the reigning European champions produced another dominant display and have won all five qualifying games without conceding a goal while scoring 19.

Although Spain is not mathematically assured of qualification until Tuesday, it would need to lose 7-0 at home to Turkiye to miss out on direct qualification.

However, De la Fuente still doesn't want to celebrate booking a



World Cup ticket.

"We have a lot of respect for our

rival [Turkiye] and for every team we

play, so we have to keep our feet on

the ground until we have qualified," he said.

De la Fuente was happy with a perfect qualifying campaign that has extended his side's unbeaten run across all competitions to 30 matches.

"It's a great motive to be proud of these players. I am very lucky, but we still have a long way to go. We still want to achieve more things and get even better results, and it's very nice to be able to coach this group of young players, who never tire of working to improve," he said.

The coach said the absence of Williams, Pedri and Yamal "gives a chance to other players who might not otherwise get them, and that is the success of the Spanish game, the clubs who work to develop players, and the players themselves."

Tokyo Deaflympics: Dhanush Srikanth smashes world record to win Air Rifle Gold



Tokyo, (UNI)

Dhanush Srikanth smashed the world record in 10m Air Rifle en route to win India's first gold medal in shooting at the 25th Summer Deaflympics now underway here.

Srikanth also broke the Deaflympic qualification record to book his spot in the finals.

In the finals, Dhanush shot 252.2 to better his own world record of 251.7 to clinch the gold medal, while his teammate Mo-

hammed Murtaza Vania secured silver with a score of 250.1. The women shooters added a silver and bronze to make it a four-medal haul for India in shooting on the first day of the competition.

In the women's 10m Air Rifle Final, Mahit Sandhu picked up the silver with a score of 250.5, 1.9 points behind gold medal winner Ukraine's Violeta Lykova (252.4). India's Komal Milind Waghmare made it a double podium finish for the Indian women, winning the bronze medal with a score of 228.3.

Dhanush's score in the finals is more than what Germany's Maximilian Dallinger shot in the finals of the same event at the ISSF World Championships last week. The German became the World Champion with a score of 252.0, which is 0.2 less than what Dhanush shot in Tokyo.

Indrajith, Andre Siddarth tons propel TN to 282-5 against UP in Ranji tie

Chennai, (UNI)

A fluent unbeaten ton by middle-order batsman Baba Indrajith and a gritty but equally important century by No.6 batter Andre Siddarth, pulled Tamil Nadu out of woods and lead the team to a good position at close on the opening days of the Elite Group A Ranji Trophy cricket match against Uttar Pradesh at CDDCA Stadium in Coimbatore today.

Thanks to their superb centuries, Tamil Nadu finished the day at 282 for five in 81.3 overs when stumps were drawn after Siddarth fell in the last over of the day.

Batting first after winning the toss, the home team with just four points in its previous four outings and looking for its batters to click in unison, started disastrously losing three-wickets in 12 overs.

After the three top order bats-



men were ripped through by medium pacers Aaqib Khan who picked up two wickets removing prolific run getter Narayan Jagadeesan and inform Pradosh Ranjan Paul in a space of four overs after his new ball partner Kunal Tyagi provided the first breakthrough dismissing their partner with some positive cricket.

team was pegged back further when they lost their fourth wicket that of P. Vidyuth (11).

With the innings in a spot of bother, Indrajith and Andre Siddarth came together and did the rescue act. Blending caution with aggression, both anchored the proceedings after rescuing the innnings and paced their partnership with some positive cricket.

While Indrajith appeared more fluent in his knock, remaining unbeaten on 128 in just 157 balls (8x4, 5x6), Andre's innings was full of grit and determination and dropped anchor at the other end. He scored 121 in 205 balls with 12 fours and a six and added 211 runs for the fifth wicket in 44.1 overs.

During the course of his 17th first class hundred, Indrajith crossed the milestone of 5,000 runs in Ranji Trophy when he reached 14, while Andre, while notching up his second first class hundred and the career best one (previous best 106 not out), crossed 1,000 runs when he scored his 68th run.

However, Andre's dismissal in the last over of the day brought a disappointing end to the day's proceedings after rescuing the innnings and paced their partnership with some positive cricket.

Olympic champion Gao wins men's 500m bronze at speed skating World Cup season opener

Washington, (UNI)

China collected two medals in the men's sprint events at the ISU Speed Skating World Cup in Salt Lake City, with Olympic champion Gao Tingyu taking bronze in the men's 500m and Ning Zhongyan finishing runner-up in the men's 1,500m as the season opened on one of the world's fastest rinks.

In a disrupted men's 500m marked by crashes and a brief ice repair, American sensation Jordan Stolz, fresh from 1,000m gold on Friday, registered another triumph in 33.88 seconds.

Poland's Damian Zurek, runner-up in Friday's 1,000m, again finished second, 0.02 seconds behind.

Gao clocked 33.93 to secure China's first podium of the weekend, as five skaters broke the 34-second mark.

Zurek, who overcame a false



start, said: "I'm super happy that it's silver again, and I'm starting the season in a good position."

In the men's 1,500m, China's Ning refreshed his own national record, taking silver in 1:41.02, 0.54 seconds behind Stolz, who completed a sweep of the men's 500m, 1,000m and 1,500m over two days at the Utah Olympic Oval.

"I thought about it before the

race," Stolz said about Kjeld Nuis' 1:40.17 world record. "I think if

I were a little bit more rested going into it, not having done the 1,000m and then a 500m before, even if it wasn't just the 500m, maybe I could have gotten it."

Germany's 18-year-old Finn Sonnekalb placed third in 1:41.33, breaking the junior world record previously held by Stolz. The American acknowledged the challenge from his young rival, saying: "He just did really good. I think he's going to do good at senior level too, he's on the podium today."

Elsewhere on Saturday, Dutch sprinter Femke Kok skated 36.48 seconds to win women's 500m. Kok acknowledged she felt the pressure seeing Japan's Yukino Yoshida open with 36.88: "When I saw 36.88, I knew I almost had to skate a personal best to beat it."

Punjab's young sprinters shine: 10 year old Navjot, dubbed 'Lady Milkha', wins races and helps family buy land

Chandigarh, (UNI)

A 10-year-old girl from Faridkot is earning admiration across Punjab after her sprinting talent helped her family secure a better future. Navjot Kaur, popularly known as "Lady Milkha" in local sports circles, has been consistently winning rural 100-metre races, earning enough prize money to buy eight marlas of land for her father. Her next goal is to build a new home for her family.

Navjot, a resident of Sadiq village, maintained her winning streak on Friday at a sports meet held in Sarai Kham village in Jalandhar, where she once again clinched the first position in the 100-metre event. With this latest victory, she has now won nine bicycles in various rural competitions.

Local sports promoter and social media influencer Pinka Jarg, who has been organising village-level athletic meets, says he dreams of turning "every third child in Punjab into an athlete within a decade." He admits the challenge is enormous but believes such grassroots efforts can help steer young stars away from drugs and towards sports.

Another young talent grabbing attention is eight-year-old Raju from Dhaduk village in Moga. Raju has already won five bicycles in under-8 races. His energetic personality and confidence have made him a favourite among spectators and a rising social media sensation.

Navjot's journey is rooted in perseverance. Born into a financially struggling household, she says her parents never allowed hardship to stand in the way of her training.



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