

# Chelsea stay top ahead of Liverpool and City, United stumble

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Chelsea survived a late onslaught by Premier League new boys Brentford to win a pulsating West London derby 1-0 on Saturday, keeping them top of the table ahead of Liverpool and Manchester City who cruised to comfortable victories.

Troubled Manchester United fell to a 4-2 defeat by Leicester City, meaning they have picked up just one point from their last three Premier League games and they slipped to fifth place.

Chelsea have 19 points, one ahead of Liverpool and two ahead of City, after Ben Chilwell struck in the first half before goalkeeper Edouard Mendy pulled off a string of late saves to deny Brentford an equaliser.

Bryan Mbeumo hit the post twice for the hosts and Chelsea's Trevoh Chalobah had to clear off the line from Christian Norgaard who later thought he had scored the goal Brentford deserved only to see Mendy pull off another stunning save.

"Mendy was absolutely world class and I think he's been crazy good for Chelsea," Brentford coach Thomas Frank said. "I just said to him it was a little bit annoying he was so good



today." United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's critics will be circling again after his side fell apart in the final stages at the King Power Stadium in their latest disappointment.

Mason Greenwood had fired United into a 19th-minute lead with a fine 20-metre drive that flew in off the inside of the post.

But United skipper Harry Maguire, rushed back from injury against his former club, was at fault for Leicester's equaliser,

being dispossessed by Kelechi Iheanacho who set up Youri Tielemans to fire home.

Caglar Soyuncu put the Foxes ahead in the 78th minute only for Marcus Rashford, back from injury and in the side for the first time this season, made it 2-2 in the 82nd minute.

But Leicester were to have the final say with goals from Jamie Vardy and Patson Daka earning Brendan Rodgers' side their third win of the campaign. While United slip outside of

the top four, Liverpool's impressive start to the season continued with Roberto Firmino scoring a hat-trick in a 5-0 demolition of Watford at Vicarage Road, inspired by Mohamed Salah.

Salah played a sublime pass to Sadio Mane with the outside of his left boot for the Senegalese striker to claim his 100th Premier League goal in the ninth minute.

Mane then picked out James Milner on an overlapping run and he drove a perfect ball across the goal for

Firmino to steer home from close range in the 37th minute to put the Reds 2-0 up at halftime.

Firmino then had a simple tap-in after Watford keeper Ben Foster failed to collect a backpass from Craig Cathcart, the ball spilling out to the Brazilian.

Salah then produced a moment of magic - trapped in tight space surrounded by Watford defenders, showed great skill to wriggle his way clear and then curl past Foster.

Firmino completed his hat-

trick in stoppage time, to complete a miserable first game in charge of Watford for Italian manager Claudio Ranieri.

Manchester City's win over winless Burnley was less spectacular but still comfortable with goals from Bernardo Silva and Kevin De Bruyne making sure of the three points.

Portuguese midfielder Silva opened the scoring in the 12th minute, tapping in after Burnley keeper Nick Pope had pushed out a well-struck low drive from Foden.

Burnley caused City some problems with Maxwell Cornet and Josh Brownhill going close but City finally put the contest to bed, in the 70th minute, when De Bruyne blasted home with his left foot.

Wolverhampton Wanderers came from two down to win 3-2 at Aston Villa with all five goals coming in the second half of a thrilling Midlands derby.

Midfielder Ruben Neves' 95th-minute free-kick deflected off Matt Targett to give Wolves their fourth win of the season and move them up to eighth.

Leeds United's poor start continued with a 1-0 loss at Southampton - Armando Broja's second-half goal earning the Saints their first win of the season.

## Chhetri credits youngsters in Indian team for SAFF C'ships triumph



Talismanic skipper Sunil Chhetri played a pivotal role in India's eighth SAFF Championships title triumph by striking five goals when he credited the young brigade for team's victory.

The 37-year-old Chhetri, Indian football's torchbearer for the last 10 years, went past legendary Pele and equalled Lionel Messi when he scored the team's opener - and his 80th goal - against Nepal in the summit clash on Saturday.

"Look at the youngsters -- it feels good for all of them. It's all due to their hard work. We were here for 20 days till the final, staying on an island, riding the waves every day for practice sessions, and matches," Chhetri said in a release from All India Football Federation.

"We made it special as we were not so good in the first two games. It was tough from there to come up and play the way we did," added Chhetri after his third triumph in the SAFF Championship as a player.

Chhetri, who has won the regional tournament in 2011 and 2015 also, was referring to the draws against Bangladesh (1-1) and Sri Lanka (0-0) in the first two matches which had attracted criticism.

"Didn't start like we should have, but ended exactly how we wanted to. Proud of this bunch and the way we got things on track," he later said in a tweet.

Chhetri, who scored five out of India's eight goals, was all praise of the other two Indian goal-getters on Saturday -- Suresh Singh and Sahal Abdul Samad.

"I enjoyed watching that, Sahal. Suresh, of all the things you copy from me, this is up there. Make it a habit," said the captain.

Sahal, on his part, said it was an "unbelievable" moment and "a miracle".

"I don't know what happened inside the box. I came in for the last 4-5 minutes. My teammates have been working hard - it all goes to them," he said.

"But I just don't remember what happened inside the box. I got it and went in. This is an amazing feeling."

Head coach Igor Stimac, who was banned from the dugout in the summit clash after being red-carded in the earlier league match against the Maldives, let the players take centre stage.

"The boys have done it," he quipped.

Stimac became the third foreign coach after Jiri Pesek (1993) and Stephen Constantine (2015) to clinch the title with the Indian team.

The Blue Tigers dedicated the trophy to their two injured teammates -- Farukh Choudhary, and Brandon Fernandes, who weren't able to travel to the ground.

While Mandar Rao Dessai and Glan Martins carried Brandon's jersey with them, Rahul Bheke preferred to wear Farukh's jersey even at the victory podium.

"Farukh and Brandon are very much here, and a part of this triumph. Their contribution in this Championship will never go unnoticed," Bheke said.

"I wore Farukh's jersey as I wanted him to be with us during the trophy celebrations."

With the title win, India extended their domination in the regional tournament. Saturday's final was the 12th for India in 13 editions.

## T20 World Cup: Australia wants nothing less than title, says Mitchell Starc



Australia fast bowler Mitchell Starc on Sunday asserted that they can defy their recent slide in the shortest format and win the T20 World Cup since they are going into the tournament full-strength.

Australia have just six wins from their last 21 games in T20 cricket and have lost five consecutive series - against England, India, New Zealand, the West Indies and Bangladesh.

"We had some really young, inexperienced players and some young guys playing their first games of cricket for Australia come into some really foreign conditions and thrown in the deep end really quickly," Starc told reporters.

"We have had to navigate a few difficulties, being back home for the guys that have been in lockdown in Sydney or Melbourne or playing very little amount of cricket for their states."

Starc said Australia's slide from being at the top in May last year to seventh in the T20 rankings is misleading and irrelevant to the T20 World

Cup. "It's a huge positive that we have got our full-strength team here available to us for the World Cup. Obviously we didn't have that through the West Indies and Bangladesh," Starc said.

"Obviously we have had a few guys here in the IPL as well so it's a mixed bag of preparation for everyone. Some have been playing some cricket, some have been trying to find ways to prepare for this tour."

In the six past editions of the T20 World Cup, Australia have reached the final only once - in 2010 when they lost to England.

"It's no secret that we haven't won a T20 World Cup so I'm looking forward to hopefully being a part of our first one," Starc said.

"We have got our full-strength team available ... it's up to us now. We have set out to win the World Cup. We don't want anything less," said the 31-year-old left-arm pacer. Australia begin their campaign against South Africa here on October 23.

## Two Days Bhandarwah Indian Style Wrestling Championship Concludes

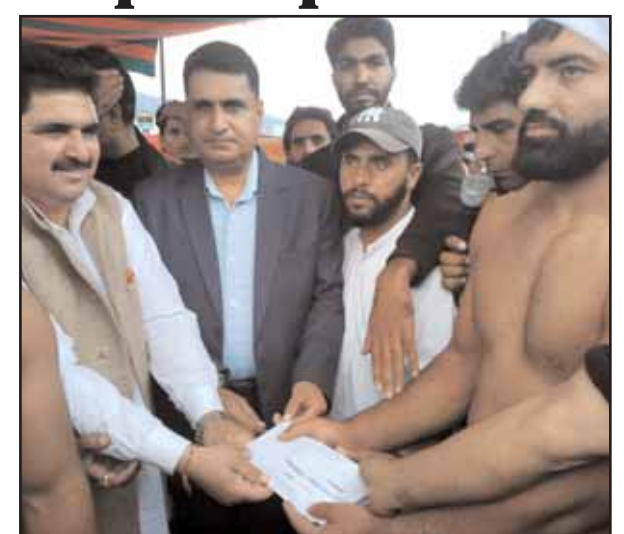
**BHANDARWAH** : Bhandarwah additional District Indian Style Wrestling Championship was organized by Youth Action Committee

Bhandarwah in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Police and Indian Army concluded at New bus stand Kotli here today.

The two days championship was held under the overall supervision of Chairman Youth Action Committee Bhandarwah Naseer Mehboob Padder

General Secretary Sheikh Mushtaq Ahmed, Vice President Mohan Singh Baloria, Muzamil Yezdani, treasurer Mohd Hussain Butt and Sudesh Manhas. In the championship, forty wrestlers from various Tehsils and Akharas of ten states participated in nine weight categories of 35 Kg, 45 Kg, 50 Kg, 55 Kg, 61 Kg, 75 Kg, 85 Kg and 85+Kg.

Chairman Dhanter Singh Kotwal and ASP Bhandarwah Abdul Qayoom said that youth is the future of the nation .Overall Championship goes to Nisar Bhalessi . YAC Chairman Naseer Mehboob informed that from the last six years his NGO is organising different sporting activities in Bhandarwah for communal harmony, brotherhood



and for giving the message among youth to shun drugs and keep themselves healthy and fit. He also said that wrestling was an important game of India from ancient times and in the coming days more sporting activities will be organised in Bhandarwah. The competition was conducted under the technical committee headed by Abdul Haq senior wrestling coach with the help of Subash, Nasir K Shah and Tilak. Kamran Ganai, Ranbir, Umar, Bunty, Harish, Nayeem, Mushtaq Ahmed, Kuljeet Katal, Abrar Naseer and other were also present on the occasion

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## 2 arrested in Athens for protesting Beijing Winter Olympics



Two women attempted to hang a banner from the Acropolis in Athens Sunday morning in protest at the upcoming Beijing Winter Olympics, and were detained by Greek police.

The activists, 18-year-old Tibetan student Tsela Zoksang and 22-year-old exiled Hong Kong activist Joey Siu, both American citizens, are members of the "No Beijing 2022" campaign, a statement from the New York-based organization Students for a Free Tibet said. They, and a third person, entered the archeological site as paying customers and then Zoksang and Siu climbed up some scaffolding, from which they attempted to unfurl the banner.

A security officer rushed to them and took the banner away. The two women remained on the scaffolding and deployed a Tibetan flag and a smaller banner proclaiming, "Free Hong Kong Revolution." They also chanted slogans including "Free Tibet," "Boycott Beijing 2022" and "No freedom, no Games." Police arrived and

detained the protesters. The whole incident lasted about 10 minutes.

"Now it is time for the international community, and all people of conscience, to take a stand and boycott Beijing 2022; anything less will be a clear endorsement of China's genocidal regime," Zoksang was quoted as saying in the statement. "The IOC is sending the world a message that it is ok to turn a blind eye to genocide and crimes against humanity in Hong Kong, Tibet, East Turkestan and Southern Mongolia," added Siu. The Olympic flame for the 24th Winter Games will be lit at Ancient Olympia Monday and handed over to the Chinese at a ceremony in Athens' Panathenian Stadium Tuesday. The International Olympic Committee's Executive Board met in Athens Saturday. The board will gather at Ancient Olympia later Sunday to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Executive Board's founding. The dress rehearsal for the Olympic flame ceremony will also take place Sunday.

## Winter Olympian Shiva Keshavan to stand for IOC Athletes Commission election

Star Indian luger Shiva Keshavan will seek to become a member of the International Olympic Committee's Athletes Commission when the elections are held during the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics.

The 40-year-old six-time Winter Olympian has been approved as one of the 17 candidates to fill in two vacant places of the IOC's Athletes Commission after the world body's executive board meeting in Athens on Saturday.

"Ten female and seven male athletes from 17 National Olympic Committees (NOCs), six sports and five continents will compete for the two vacant seats on the Commission," the IOC said in a statement with a list of the 17 contesting candidates.

"They have been nominated by their respective NOCs, together with their NOC Athletes' Commissions."

Indian Olympic Association Secretary General Rajeev Mehta confirmed that it had nominated the name of



Keshavan who is the torch bearer of Winter Olympics for the country.

"Yes, the IOA had nominated his name for the IOC Athletes Commission. He is the most deserving athlete as far as Winter Olympics is concerned," Mehta told PTI.

Keshavan has been taking part in the Winter Olympics in luge men's singles since the 1998 Nagano Games in Japan. He was also the Asian champion in 2011, 2012, 2016 and 2017 and holds the Asian record in luge.

In the 2018 PyeongChang Winter

Olympics, Keshavan and cross country skier Jagdish Singh represented India.

Serving as a link between the athletes and the IOC, the Commission is composed of a maximum of 23 members (12 members directly elected by their peers and a maximum of 11 appointed), who serve a term of eight years. An election is held at every edition of the Olympic Games, with four members chosen at each Summer Games, and two at each Winter Games.

Athletes competing at the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics will be able to

vote for their representatives in the Olympic Villages from January 27 (the day the Villages open) until February 16.

The elected athletes will replace current IOC AC member Hayley Wickenheiser (Canada), who is finishing her term of office at the end of Beijing Winter Olympics, and fill the vacancy caused by Ole Einar Bjornndalen's (Norway) resignation in 2016.

Last month, Keshavan had drawn attention of the government towards the plight of the country's 2022 Winter Olympics aspirants, saying they have resorted to crowd funding; due to lack of financial support.

The Winter Olympics will be held in Beijing from February 4-20 next year.

"There are 150 days left for the Winter Olympics. A reminder to the government that not a single winter sports federation is currently recognised and eligible for funding in India," Keshavan had tweeted.

"Athletes are doing crowdfunding online!," he had said.

## Serie A: We lost our heads, Inter beaten with controversial goal



A controversial goal led to Inter Milan's first defeat of the season in a 3-1 loss at Lazio in Serie A on Saturday.

Felipe Anderson scored a late winner while Inter full-back Federico Dimarco was down injured.

The goal infuriated Inter but the rules say the referee should interrupt play only when there is a risk of serious injury, which was not the case. Inter's players were calling for Lazio to kick the ball out of play when Anderson redirected a rebound of a shot from Ciro Immobile.

Sergej Milinkovic-Savic then secured the three points for Lazio with a header in stoppage time as Inter's focus was lost. Immobile had canceled out Ivan Perisic's first-half penalty with a penalty of his own. It marked a bitter return to the Stadio Olimpico for new Inter Milan coach Simone Inzaghi, who coached Lazio for the last five seasons after also spending the bulk of his playing career with the

Roman club.

Inzaghi acknowledged, "We lost our heads. That shouldn't happen, because the referee can let play continue and there were 10 minutes plus stoppages to go. We should've kept playing."

Inter remained in third place, four points behind perfect Napoli and two points behind unbeaten AC Milan. Napoli hosts Torino on Sunday. Milan played Hellas Verona late Saturday.

Lazio, which moved up to fifth, had been slow to adapt to Maurizio Sarri's fast-paced attacking game but beat Roma in the city derby late last month and is developing into a tricky opponent.

Earlier, Ukraine midfielder Viktor Kovalenko on loan from Atalanta set up one goal then scored the winner as Spezia came from a goal down to beat Salernitana 2-1 and climb out of the drop zone. It's the first Serie A weekend in the pandemic when stadium capacities have been raised to 75%.