

sp Briefs

NEW DELHI Manhas, Krishan front-runners for key post

Former Delhi captain Mithun Manhas and junior national selection panel member Krishan Mohan Sharma are front-runners for the North Zone selector's post...

NEW DELHI FC Barcelona shuts academies in India

Renowned football club FC Barcelona has announced the closure of its academies in India from July 1, without providing any specific reasons for the decision...

LONDON Alcaraz starts campaign with win

Carlos Alcaraz began his grass-court season by beating Francisco Cerundolo 6-1, 7-5 in his opener at Queen's Club...

NEW DELHI AIFF invites applications for coach position

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Wednesday announced hiring for the vacant head coach position for both the men's national team and the U23 squad...

EURO CUP 2024 | After Portugal pip Czech Fernandes hails big value Pepe and Ronaldo

Agencies LEIPZIG

Following Portugal's comeback win over Czech Republic in their Euro 2024 opener, Manchester United midfielder Bruno Fernandes heaped praises on Cristiano Ronaldo and Pepe...

Despite going a goal down in the first half win 2-1, Portugal recovered in the second half to snatch 2-1 victory thanks to substitute Francisco Conceicao's dramatic winner.

enced players in this tournament, not only in our team. We know they are big value for us and we know they are going to help us through the tournament...

Lucas Provd scored a brilliant goal from outside the box that nestled into the left corner of the goal in the 62nd minute to give Czech Republic the lead to many's surprise.

Nuno Mendes' attempt saw the Czech keeper stop the shot but fall out of his reach on the rebound. Much to his dismay Robin Hranac was the man trying to deal with the here, but ended up scoring

into his own net to level the game through an own goal in the 69th minute. Ronaldo's header in the 87th minute saw the ball hit the post and fall to Dioga Jota who scored what they thought to be the winner but the five-time Balon d'Or winner was ruled to have been offside.

Conceicao was subbed on in the 90th minute and the 21-year old made no mistake in scoring on his first appearance at the major tournament for the country to lead the side to a 2-1 victory.

Mbappe feeling a bit better after facial injury, says Saliba

Agencies PADERBORN (GERMANY)

France striker Kylian Mbappé is feeling a "bit better," teammate William Saliba said on Wednesday, ahead of undergoing more tests on a facial injury sustained in the team's opening game of the European championship.

Mbapp broke his nose in an aerial collision during the 1-0 win against Austria on Monday and will have to wear a face mask if he plays on at the tournament.

France's next match is against the Netherlands on Friday and the team has yet to officially confirm whether Mbappé is available.

"I think he was off to do more tests. I don't know anything more. "But when I saw him this



France forward #10 Kylian Mbappé is escorted off the pitch for treatment during the UEFA Euro 2024 Group D match between Austria and France at the Dusseldorf Arena in Dusseldorf on Monday.

morning he was a bit better." Mbappé does not require immediate surgery, the French soccer federation has said.

Speaking after Saliba, France midfielder Adrien Rabiot said he predicted Mbappé to return soon and compared

the injury to one suffered by Rabiot's teammate at Juventus, goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny.

Neeraj highlights struggles with adductor niggle

Agencies TURKU (FINLAND)

Olympic medalist Neeraj Chopra secured the top spot at the Paavo Nurmi Games on Tuesday with a throw of 85.97 meters on his third attempt but was quick to reveal the persistent adductor niggle that has impacted his season so far.

Chopra, who made history by becoming the first Indian to win a track and field medal at the Tokyo Olympics, revealed his ongoing struggle with the adductor issue, stating his intention to consult various doctors after the Paris Olympics to address the persistent problem.



am going to talk to different doctors."

Despite the ongoing adductor issues, Chopra expressed a strong desire to compete in more events this season. He participated in the Doha Diamond League in May, finishing second with a final throw of 88.36 metres, his ninth-best career mark.

with a modest effort of 82.27m. "Initially, I wanted to compete more this season, but it was not possible due to my niggles," Chopra added.

Following his success at the Paavo Nurmi Games, Chopra is set to compete next at the Paris Diamond League on July 7. His preparation for the Paris Olympics includes training at three different venues in Europe alongside his coach Klaus Bartonietz and physio Ishaan Marwaha.

Euro 2024 matchweek 1 highlights

Ruthless Germany, young stars arrival and Mbappe dilemma

Agencies NEW DELHI

With Matchweek 1 now in the rearview mirror and the fixtures moving from opening games to potential knockouts are turning intense in the 17th edition of the European Championship. Here are the highlights of the first game-week.

ARE GERMAN FAVOURITES?

The Deutschland entered their home tournament with a huge question mark over their heads. The side has not been at the top of International football ever since their 2014 FIFA World Cup win and have had issues in creating and finishing chances. Despite it being their home tournament, many questioned whether the side will be able to gel together and make a deep run in the tournament.

The hosts answered all questions being asked in the first half of their game against Scotland as they led the Scottish side by three goals and went on to win 5-1. The

youthful attacking trio of Musiala, Wirtz and Havertz were effortlessly controlling the game in the final third of the pitch creating and converting chances in impressive manner.

Considering Germany's new found attacking identity and the support from the ever passionate German fans, the team can be hailed as one of the favorites to go all the way.

A NEW GENERATION HAS ARRIVED

Over the past decades we have turned to international tournaments to get our doses of the Cristiano Ronaldo€™s and other stars of the world to enjoy them representing and usually scoring for their national teams. The 2024 Euros has seen an interesting turn of events as the next generation of footballers have stepped up and announced their arrival on the global stage.

16-year-old Spaniard Lamine Yamal, who has had to take a break from school and is also continuing his studies while on the training camp,

became the youngest player to provide an assist in Euros history.

The records speak for themselves but what is even more impressive is these players are being cultivated into match-winners from a very young age. Arda Guler (Turkey) and Francisco Conceicao (Portugal) both scored on their Euros debut and led their respective side to victory in the all important opening game-week.

Jude Bellingham (England) and Pedro Gonzalez have already turned into household names and stars in their respective leagues which indicates that football may be ready to move on from one of its most illustrious period.

FRANCE AND ENGLAND STRUGGLE

England began their European campaign against Serbia and the Three Lions were nowhere near their best. The side looked too robust and were not able to play their free flowing style of play. If it was not for Bukayo Saka and Jude Bellingham the side could have lost points in their

opening fixture.

Phil Foden who is coming off his best ever season with his Premier League club Manchester City once again ghosted in an England shirt which raised the question: Can the talented winger play outside of the extremely well oiled system of Pep Guardiola's team?

France, on the other hand, struggled to finish their chances against Austria. Even Kylian Mbappé hit his chance wide after finding himself one vs one with the Austrian goalkeeper. The team won 1-0 through an own goal scored by Maximilian Wober but it showcased their inability to be clinical in front of goal.

Didier Deschamps' men will reportedly be without Mbappé for their important game against Netherlands and a loss could see them find themselves in trouble. Mbappé has been the team's star goal scorer since the 2018 World Cup and his injury could prove to be a difficult hurdle to overcome for the French side.

Vijay shines with silver at South Asian Kurash C'ship

Prachand secures 7th place at Ju-Jutsu Asian C'ship

Our Sports Reporter BHOPAL

Vijay Chaudhary has won the silver medal in the under 66 kg weight category at the first South Asian Kurash Championship 2024, held at Sacred Heart College, Kochi.

Chaudhary, who is pursuing a Master of Physical Education & Sports (second year) at the Department of Physical Education,

LNCT University, showcased exceptional skill and determination to secure his place on the podium.

In a parallel achievement, Prachand, a first-year student of BPES at LNCT University, performed admirably in the under 60 kg weight category at the 1st Ju-Jutsu Asian Youth Championship, held in Abu Dhabi, UAE, from May 6 to 8. Prachand secured a commendable

seventh rank, highlighting his potential and dedication to the sport.

The chancellor of LNCT University, Jai Narain Chouksey, along with other dignitaries, extended their heartfelt congratulations to both Vijay Chaudhary and Prachand. They expressed their best wishes for the bright future of these talented athletes, applauding their hard work and dedication.

Croatia and Albania draw 2-2 at Euro 2024, leaving both in difficult spot in Group B

AP HAMBURG (GERMANY)

Croatia and Albania drew 2-2 at Euro 2024 on Wednesday in the first-ever competitive match between the Balkan teams.

Croatia tried to set the pace from the start, but Albania's Qazim Laci scored first, heading in a cross from the right flank in the 11th minute.

Andrej Kramaric equalized about half an hour into the second half and an own goal by Klaus Gjasula made it 2-1 for Croatia just two minutes later. Gjasula redeemed himself by scoring Albania's equalizer in extra-time.

The result leaves Croatia and Albania in a precarious situation in Group B after losing to Spain and Italy, respectively, in their opening matches.

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