

Sports

France draw again as Dutch roll in World Cup qualifying

Haaland powers Norway past Latvia; Croatia, Russia win

PARIS: World Cup holders France stuttered again in their bid to qualify for the 2022 finals in Qatar after a 1-1 draw in Ukraine, while Memphis Depay inspired the Netherlands to a rout of Montenegro on Saturday.

France drew their fifth successive match as Anthony Martial scored his first international goal in five years to earn Didier Deschamps' side a point in Kiev. The Manchester United forward, who missed Euro 2020 with a knee injury, grabbed just his second goal in 29 caps to cancel out a magnificent first-half strike by Ukraine midfielder Mykola Shaparenko.

Les Bleus remain four points clear at the top of Group D but have played two games more than Finland, who they host in Lyon tomorrow. Joel Pohjanpalo's second-half effort clinched Finland a 1-0 victory over Kazakhstan.

"We are maybe not in a better situation than we were before the match, but it is not any worse either. It's just one more point when obviously our goal was to take all three," Deschamps told French broadcaster M6. Ukraine have now drawn all five of their qualifiers so far, including both matches against France.

Depay led the Netherlands to a 4-0 defeat of Montenegro in Eindhoven that kept Louis van Gaal's team right behind Group G leaders Turkey, who won 3-0 in

Gibraltar. Barcelona star Depay opened the scoring for the Dutch with a penalty and netted a second on the hour. Captain Georginio Wijnaldum added a slick third and Cody Gakpo bagged his first goal for the national team with a terrific curling shot.

"Once the first goal went in we played in a much more relaxed manner and produced some very good football," said Van Gaal, back for a third spell in charge of the Netherlands. "Memphis had an extraordinary game. He was undoubtedly the man of the match."

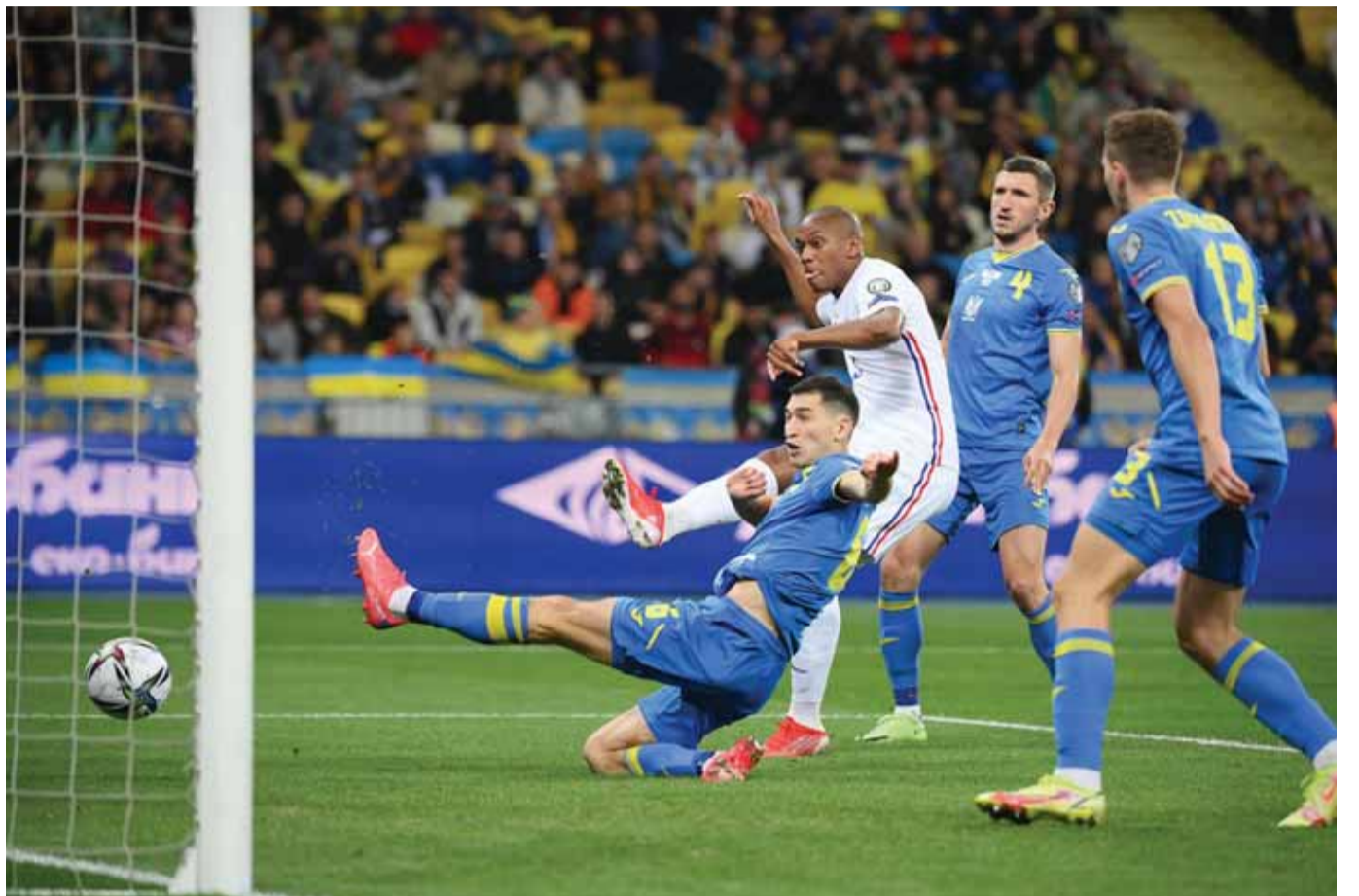
Haaland spot on

Erling Haaland converted a spot-kick as he scored for the second game running in Norway's 2-0 win against Latvia, with

Mohamed Elyounoussi also on target in Oslo. Norway and the Netherlands are both a point back of Turkey, who go to Amsterdam next week. "Now we must win on Tuesday against

Turkey. A victory would put us in an ideal position for qualification," added Van Gaal. Marcelo Brozovic's late goal gave Croatia a 1-0 victory away to Slovakia, ensuring the 2018 World Cup runners-up stayed level with Russia in Group H.

Russia beat Cyprus 2-0 away while Slovenia won 1-0 at home to Malta. Denmark needed an 85th-minute effort from Jonas Wind to see off the Faroe



KIEV: France's forward Anthony Martial (second left) shoots and scores his team's first goal during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Group D qualification football match between Ukraine and France at the Olympic Stadium in Kiev on Saturday. — AFP

Islands 1-0 and record a fifth win in as many outings in Group F. Scotland moved above Austria into third place as Lyndon Dykes' early strike sealed a 1-0

home win over Moldova.

Aleksandar Mitrovic struck twice as Serbia defeated Luxembourg 4-1 to edge above Portugal on goal difference

at the top of Group A. A late Shane Duffy equalizer salvaged the Republic of Ireland a disappointing 1-1 draw at home to Azerbaijan. — AFP

Serie A Salernitana say they are poised to sign Ribery

ROME: Franck Ribery, a free agent since the summer, will extend his playing career at Salernitana, a club promoted to Serie A this season, Italian media reported yesterday. The club confirmed there was an agreement in principle, but has yet to confirm the signing of the 38-year-old former French international and Bayern Munich star.

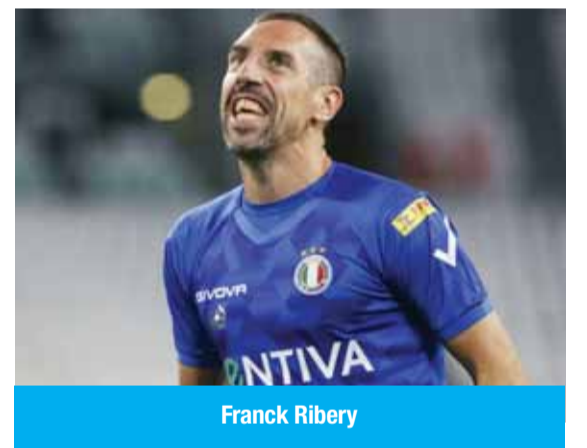
Ribery has been a free agent since Fiorentina chose not to renew his two-year contract in the summer. "FR7" will arrive in Salerno on Monday to undergo a medical examination and "then he will sign a contract that will bind him for one year to the Dark Reds, with an option of extension," said the Corriere dello Sport yesterday.

The Rome sports daily reported the club would pay Ribery 1.5 million euros (\$1.8 million) for the season and had lined up housing for him. "There is an agreement in principle, we are waiting for the ratification," said Angelo Fabiani, sports director of the club, quoted by Corriere dello Sport. "With his experience, he can be useful to the growth of Salerno, he can guide the group and help the coach. Having someone like

him always encourages others to give their best."

Ribery indicated that he wanted to stay in Florence, where he made 50 Serie A appearances scoring five goals, but since being cut loose on June 30, he has continued to train, for a while at Bayern, while awaiting offers.

Salernitana returned to Serie A this season for the first time since 1998-99 and have opened their campaign with two defeats. The possible signing has already inspired the appearance of black-market club shirts with his name in Salerno, south of Naples. On its website, Salernitana pointed out that "the player does not belong to the club" and warned that it "reserves the right to take legal action to protect its image." — AFP



Franck Ribery

India coach Shastri tests positive for COVID-19

LONDON: India head coach Ravi Shastri has been forced to remain in the team hotel after testing positive for COVID-19 during the ongoing fourth Test against England at the Oval, a Board of Control for Cricket in India statement said yesterday.

The BCCI said Shastri, bowling coach B Arun, fielding coach R Sridhar and physiotherapist Nitin Patel were all isolating as a "precautionary measure" following 59-year-old former India all-rounder Shastri's positive lateral flow test late on Saturday.

They have all undergone PCR testing, with the BCCI statement saying they will "remain in the

team hotel and not travel with Team India until confirmation from the medical team". A spokesman added later yesterday that Arun, Sridhar and Patel had all since tested negative.

Officials insisted it was safe for the match to continue as the remaining members of the Indian contingent had undergone two lateral flow tests, one on Saturday and another yesterday morning, all of which produced "negative COVID reports", and were allowed to go to the Oval for the fourth day.

But Shastri, Arun, Sridhar and Patel were not at the south London ground, as India resumed on 270-3 in their second innings, a lead of 171 runs, in a five-match series all square at 1-1. The fifth Test at Old Trafford, Manchester, is scheduled to start on Friday, September 10. The two teams have been in separate environments, with the only interactions taking place on the field during play.

Rahul fined for dissent

Meanwhile, India batsman KL Rahul has been

fined 15 percent of his match fee after showing dissent following his dismissal on Saturday. The opener was unhappy at being given out caught behind on review for 46 off the bowling of England great James Anderson.

After Alex Wharf reversed his decision, Rahul gestured to the on-field umpire that he had hit his pad with the bat, although the Decision Review System confirmed he had edged the ball before making any further contact. Rahul was found to have breached article 2.8 of the International Cricket Council code of conduct, which relates to "showing dissent at an umpire's decision during an international match".

The 29-year-old Rahul has also had one demerit point added to his disciplinary record for a first offence in a 24-month period. Rahul admitted the offence and accepted the sanction proposed by ICC match referee Chris Broad, the former England batsman, which meant there was no need for a formal hearing. — AFP



NOTTINGHAM: In this file photo taken on August 4, 2021 India's head coach Ravi Shastri looks on ahead of play on the first day of the first cricket Test match of the India Tour of England 2021 between England and India at the Trent Bridge cricket ground in Nottingham. — AFP

Classifieds

Hospitals & Clinics

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144

Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401

CHANGE OF NAME

I, GAFFAR SYED HUSSAIN SHANAWAS TINDIVANAM hereby declare that I have changed my name as SYED SHANAWAS S/o SYED HUSSAIN TINDIVANAM. (C 0642)

I, SHABBIR TAHER BHAI SAMPLEWALA hereby declare that I have changed my name as SHABBIR TAHER BHAI RATLAMWALA. So, from now and in future I will be known by my new name, Shabir Taher Bhai Ratlamwala, Add: 501, Noorani Nagar, Dhar Road, Indore (M.P). (C 0643) 6-9-2021

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