

# Nunez late show extends Liverpool's lead

## Arsenal held by Aston Villa

AFP, LONDON: Darwin Nunez struck twice in stoppage time to earn Liverpool a 2-0 win at Brentford and a six-point Premier League lead over Arsenal, who blew a two-goal lead to draw 2-2 against Aston Villa.

Liverpool looked set to drop points for the third consecutive league game until the much-maligned Uruguayan doubled his tally of Premier League goals for the season in the dying seconds in west London.

Nunez swept home Trent Alexander-Arnold's cross before smashing in a second for a vital twist in the title race. Liverpool had been wasteful in front of goal in a 1-1 draw at Nottingham Forest in midweek and Arne Slot's men nearly let another two points slip away. On a rare quiet day for Mohamed Salah, Slot was forced to turn to Nunez to make an impact off the bench and he duly delivered.

The 25-year-old had not scored in the league since November but was in the right place to finish after a neat one-two between Harvey Elliott and Alexander-Arnold.

Substitute Elliott was the creator for the second, feeding Nunez to cut inside and fire past Mark Flekken.



Liverpool's Uruguayan striker #09 Darwin Nunez celebrates after scoring his team's second goal during the English Premier League match against Brentford at the Gtech Community Stadium in London.

Liverpool also have a game in hand over injury-hit Arsenal, whose title challenge faltered once more at the Emirates.

Bournemouth snapped Newcastle's winning streak in stunning fashion as Justin Kluivert's hat-trick fired the Cherries up to sixth in a 4-1 win. Bournemouth have never qualified for European competition before and Kluivert said that is the goal for an ambitious squad.

**ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE RESULTS**  
**Arsenal 2 (Martinelli 35, Havertz 55) Aston Villa 2 (Tielemans 60, Watkins 68), Brentford 0 Liverpool 2 (Nunez 90+1, 90+3), Leicester 0 Fulham 2 (Smith Rowe 48, Traore 68), Newcastle 1 (Guimaraes 25) Bournemouth 4 (Kluivert 6, 44, 90+2, Kerkez 90+6), West Ham 0 Crystal Palace 2 (Mateta 48, 89-pen)**

Leicester have lost seven consecutive Premier League games as a 2-0 home defeat to Fulham edged Ruud van Nistelrooy's men closer to a return to the Championship.

Emile Smith Rowe and Adama Traore were on target for the visitors, who move up to ninth. Crystal Palace are up to 12th after a third win in four games thanks to Jean-Philippe Mateta's double in a 2-0 win at 10-man West Ham.

# Djokovic sets up Alcaraz clash

## Sabalenka surges into quarters; Djokovic pursues a record-extending 11th Melbourne crown & 25th Grand Slam title

AFP, MELBOURNE: Novak Djokovic surged into an Australian Open quarter-final clash against Carlos Alcaraz with a dominant victory on Sunday while women's world number one Aryna Sabalenka was a ruthless winner.

Double defending champion Sabalenka is on a collision course with in-form world number three Coco Gauff in the semi-finals in Melbourne if both win in the last eight.

On the hottest day of the tournament so far with temperatures hitting 34 degrees Celsius (93 Fahrenheit), Alcaraz went through when Britain's Jack Draper retired injured.

The 37-year-old Djokovic then kept up his end of the bargain with a 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (7/4) win over Czech 24th seed Jiri Lehecka in the prime-time match on Rod Laver Arena.

Djokovic is anticipating a "big battle" against Alcaraz on Tuesday. Djokovic appears to be growing into the tournament in an ominous sign for his rivals, as he pursues a record-extending 11th Melbourne crown and historic 25th Grand Slam title.

Djokovic and Alcaraz have played each other



Serbia's Novak Djokovic celebrates after winning his men's singles match against Czech Republic's Jiri Lehecka on day eight of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on Sunday.

seven times with the Serb leading 4-3, including victory in their last clash in the Paris Olympics final.

But they have nev-

er played at Melbourne Park, where Djokovic has achieved his greatest success.

American 12th seed Tommy Paul destroyed Spain's Alejandro Davidovich Fokina for the loss of just three games as he bids to match or better his semi-final appearance from 2023.

Paul will meet German second seed Alexander Zverev, who survived a mid-match wobble to oust France's Ugo Humbert.

Zverev, who is zeroing in on a maiden Grand Slam title, won 6-1, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Sabalenka blew away Russian 17-year-old Mirra Andreeva 6-1, 6-2 in a chilling warning to sweep into the quarter-finals.

A dangerous Gauff faces Spain's 11th seed Paula Badosa after the American fought back to beat Belinda Bencic 5-7, 6-2, 6-1.

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## sportspopup

### Mumbai Marathon: Tesfay, Chepkemoi win men's and women's titles

MUMBAI: New champions emerged in the Tata Mumbai Marathon as unheralded Berhane Tesfay of Eritrea clinched the elite men's title while Kenya's Joyce Chepkemoi Tele won the women's crown here on Sunday. The 38-year-old Tesfay clocked 2 hours 11 minutes and 44 seconds to complete the 42.195km distance and win his maiden international full marathon title as thousands of Mumbaiers turned up for the marquee event which is a World Athletics Gold Label Road Race. The tiny African nation of Eritrea finished 1-2 as Tesfay's compatriot Merhawi Kesenet was second in 2:11:50s while Ethiopia's Tesfaye Demeke (2:11:56s) was third. Tele, 29, clocked 2:24:56s to win the elite women's race, finishing ahead of Shitaye Eshete (2:25:29s) of Bahrain and Medina Deme Armino (2:27:58s) of Ethiopia. Both the men's and women's defending champions from Ethiopia, Lemi Berhanu and Aberash Minsewo, failed to finish on the podium this time.

### LSG set to unveil Pant as captain today

KOLKATA: Having made a splash at the IPL auction by acquiring Rishabh Pant, the most expensive player in IPL history, Lucknow Super Giants are all set to unveil the India star wicketkeeper as their next captain on Monday. Without disclosing anything, owner of LSG Sanjiv Goenka has called for the "special" media interaction of the IPL franchise where the jersey unveiling is also expected. Pant, who was bought by LSG for Rs 27 crore, would mark his second stint as a leader in the IPL.

### Axelsen, An Se-Young claim India Open titles

NEW DELHI: Olympic champions Viktor Axelsen and An Se-Young secured the men's and women's singles crowns respectively with dominating wins in lop-sided finals at the India Open Super 750 badminton tournament, here, on Sunday. Axelsen, a 2017 and 2019 winner, prevailed 21-16, 21-8 over last year's finalist Lee Cheuk Yiu of Hong Kong in the men's singles summit clash at the KD Jadhav indoor hall which was almost full despite the fact that no Indian was competing in the two finals. In the women's singles, it was another graceful performance from An Se-Young as she effortlessly packed off P Chochuwong 21-12, 21-9. In the women's doubles final, Japan's Arisa Igarashi and Ayako Sakuramoto beat Kim Hye Jang and Kong Hee Young of South Korea 21-15, 21-13. In the mixed doubles final, China's Jiang Zhen Bang and Wei Ya Xin prevailed 21-18, 21-17 over Thom Gicquel and Delphine Delrue.

### Chess: Gukesh draws with Fedoseev

WIJK AAN ZEE (The Netherlands): World champion D Gukesh drew his second-round game against Slovenia's Vladimir Fedoseev, while Leon Luke Mendonca endured his second straight loss, going down to Uzbekistan's Nodirbek Abdusattorov at the Tata Steel Chess Tournament on Sunday. After an intense first round clash against Anish Giri, Gukesh, playing with black pieces, opted for a solid approach against Fedoseev. Despite appearing optically worse, the Indian neutralised Fedoseev's advantage and steered the game into a balanced rook-and-pawn endgame, leading to a draw. Results, round 2: Masters: Vladimir Fedoseev (Slo, 1) drew with D Gukesh (Ind, 1.5); Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 1.5) beat Leon Luke Mendonca (Ind, 0); Fabiano Caruana (Usa, 1.5) beat Jorden van Foreest (Ned, 0.5); Alexey Sarana (Srb, 1) drew with Wei Yi (Chn, 1).

# India begin women's U-19 WC title defence with 9-wkt win

PTI, KUALA LUMPUR: Indian bowlers shot a clueless West Indies batters out for a measly 44 to set up a commanding nine-wicket win to begin their title defence on a resounding note in the women's U-19 World Cup, here, on Sunday.

Left-arm spinners Parunika Sisodia (3/7) and Aayushi Shukla (2/6) as well as pacer VJ Joshitha (2/6) toyed with the West Indies batters to bowl the Caribbeans out

in just 13.2 overs in the Group A match at Bayuemas Oval. India chased down the target of 45 in just 4.2 overs.

Brief scores: West Indies U-19 Women: 44 in 13.2 overs (Kenika Cassar 15; Parunika Sisodia 3/7, Aayushi Shukla 2/6, VJ Joshitha 2/6). India U-19 Women: 47 for 1 in 4.2 overs (Sanika Chalke 18 not out, G Kamalini 16 not out; Jahzara Claxton 1/18).

# Test: Pak's Sajid, Abrar demolish Windies

AFP, MULTAN: Spinner Sajid Khan took five wickets and Abrar Ahmed another four to guide Pakistan to a 127-run win on the third day of the first Test against West Indies in Multan on Sunday.

Sajid took 5-50 for match figures of 9-115, while leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed snared 4-27 as West Indies were dismissed for 123, falling well short of their victory target of 251. Pakistan's spinners took all the wickets in West Indies' second innings, with Noman Ali chipping in with 1-42, as the home side took an early advantage in

the two-Test series. Left-handed batter Alick Athanaze hit 55, the only half-century of the match for the tourists, and added 41 runs for the sixth wicket with Tevin Imlach.

Sajid removed the dangerous Athanaze, while Abrar's haul included the final wicket of Jomel Warrican. Left-armer Warrican had led the spin attack for the tourists with a career-best 7-32 as Pakistan were bowled out for 157 in their second innings.

They were the best figures by a West Indian bowler in Pakistan, topping fast bowler Malcolm Marshall's 5-33 at Lahore in 1986.



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