



"Again, it was a disappointing one. Definitely, 158 wasn't the perfect total on the board. And eventually we saw how quickly they chased down (4th T20I against England). So I think we fell a bit short in terms of our execution. And, yeah, we saw that when we were changing the pace, when we were trying something else, they scored off those loose balls, - Shreyas Iyer

FIFA World Quarterfinals

French jinx haunts Morocco

Atlas Lions knocked out of WC for second time in row

FOXBOROUGH (US)

FRANCE did it to Morocco again at the World Cup.

For the second straight tournament, Morocco was ousted by the French 2-0 — this time in the quarterfinals at Gillette Stadium, four years after losing by the same score in the semifinals. With this win France marched into third successive Fifa World Cup last 4.

With very few attacking chances on Thursday, Morocco landed only one shot on goal, and that came in the 82nd minute while already trailing by two goals.

It was the same ending as in Qatar, when the Atlas Lions be-

came the first African team to reach the semifinals at a World Cup. "The future will be bright if we continue like this, but that doesn't mean we didn't want to win today. Of course, we wanted to win today," Morocco coach Mohamed Ouahbi said through a translator.

"We did everything we could to win, but we faced a very difficult opponent. It's a disappointment, of course, but we'll keep working for the future."

The Atlas Lions' best chance came when midfielder Azzedine Ounahi had a shot from the edge of the box but goalkeeper Mike Maignan made a diving stop, knocking the ball away and, essentially, ending the hopes of Morocco.

"They had no real forwards using their

speed in the wide areas," France coach Didier Deschamps said.

"We were possessing the ball, they had no way to be dangerous to us."

It wasn't like Morocco didn't make a hard push at this year's World Cup. They recruited talented 18-year-old Ayyoub Bouaddi, who could have been playing with France's youth teams. He was born in Senlis, an hour north of Paris, and after representing France in every age group possible, he switched allegiance.

"We know we represent more than just one country," Ouahbi said.

"We represent the Moroccan people, and many countries across Asia and Africa. Many people see themselves in this team, and we'll keep working to win titles in the future."

Morocco's best opportunity in the opening half came just before the halftime whistle when Achraf Hakimi sent a free kick from just outside the box past the right post. (AP)

Morocco's Achraf Hakimi is being consoled by France's Desire Doue after the former lost their World Cup quarterfinal match.



Mbappe rewrites World Cup history

27-yr-old becomes youngest to 20 matches, fastest to 20 goals

FOXBOROUGH

FRANCE talisman Kylian Mbappe has carved his name deeper into football history, becoming the youngest player to feature in 20 FIFA World Cup matches and the fastest to reach the milestone of 20 World Cup appearances.

The 27-year-old achieved the historic feat during France's 2-0 quarter-final victory over Morocco at the Boston Stadium, where he recovered from a first-half penalty miss to score in the 60th minute before setting up teammate Ousmane Dembele for the second. While Argentina's Lionel Messi is the outright record holder for FIFA World

Cup appearances with 30, Mbappe has become France's first-most capped player in the competition with 20 appearances. He is level with Hugo Lloris and ahead of Antoine Griezmann, Olivier Giroud and Raphael Varane.

With his eighth goal of the ongoing 2026 tournament,

Mbappe has now taken his overall World Cup tally to 20 goals in just 20 appearances across three editions (2018, 2022, and 2026), just one goal shy of equalling Messi (21) for the most goals scored in the history of the competition.

France's all-time leading goalscorer Kylian Mbappe has cemented his place among the greatest players in FIFA World Cup history across his appearances at three edi-

tions of the tournament.

He features prominently in numerous all-time rankings and boasts an impressive collection of individual records.

After France's 3-0 victory

over Sweden at World Cup 2026, the 27-year-old Frenchman became the French player with the most wins in the tournament's history (15). His 16th triumph, against Paraguay, saw him draw level with Brazil's Cafu on the all-time list. Against Morocco in the quarter-final, he levelled with Miroslav Klose with 17 wins. Only Lionel Messi (20 wins) remains ahead of him.

With eight knockout-stage goals to his name before the 2026 tournament, Mbappe was level with Brazil's Leoni-das and Ronaldo. His brace against Sweden in France's 3-0 win in New Jersey took him clear at the top of the all-time ranking,

before he extended the record to 11 goals with another against Paraguay and to 12 against Morocco.



All-time WC top scorers

- Lionel Messi (Argentina), 21
- Kylian Mbappé (France), 20
- Miroslav Klose (Germany), 16
- Ronaldo (Brazil), 15
- Harry Kane (England), 14
- Gerd Müller (Germany), 14
- Just Fontaine (France), 13
- Pelé (Brazil), 12
- Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal), 11
- Jürgen Klinsmann (Germany), 11

Khammam end Hyderabad's run, storm into final

HYDERABAD

ANVITA Khammam Aces booked their place in the final of the Hyderabad Cricket Association's TG20 with a thrilling 10-run victory over Hyderabad E-Champions in Qualifier 1 at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Hyderabad on Thursday.

Powered by Mickil Jaiswal's unbeaten 76 and a disciplined bowling effort led by Sahendra Mallu (3/31) as well as Harshith Sai's disciplined final over, the Aces successfully defended 200 to hand Hyderabad E-Champions their first defeat of the tournament, ending

the league leaders' unbeaten run.

While Anvita Khammam Aces advance directly to the final to be held on Sunday, Hyderabad E-Champions will have another opportunity to qualify when they face EIPL & Evele Karimnagar Diamonds in Qualifier 2 on Friday, July 10, after the Diamonds defeated Ranga Reddy Risers by 75 runs in Thursday's Eliminator.

The unbeaten Mickil Jaiswal finished on 76 off 34, anchoring the innings with seven sixes and four boundaries, as the late assault helped the Aces pile on 113 runs in the final 10

overs to finish with a formidable 200/6.

For E-Champions Vaishnav fought till the very end, striking a six off Sahendra Mallu before adding a boundary in the final over off Harshith Sai. Akhil Rathod remained unbeaten on 8 off 4 and chipped in with a six in the closing stages. But E-Champions could only reach 190/8, falling 10 runs short despite Vaishnav's unbeaten effort.

Brief scores: Anvita Khammam Aces 200/6 in 20 overs (Mickil Jaiswal 76*, G Sai Krishna Reddy 40, Paras Raj 32, Akhil Rathod 2/33, Pranav Varma 1/32) beat Hy-



Hyderabad E-Champions 27, Pranav Varma 26, Ved Reddy 2/33, Sahendra Mallu 3/31 by 10 runs.

NMDC Hyd Marathon earns World Athletics' Silver Sustainability Award

HYDERABAD: The NMDC Hyderabad Marathon 2025, organised by the Hyderabad Runners Society, has become the first marathon in India to receive the prestigious World Athletics - Athletics for a Better World (ABW) Silver Standard. Valid for three years, this international recognition honours sporting events that create a meaningful positive impact on the environment, communities and society. In a significant global recognition, the NMDC Hyderabad Marathon 2025 has earned a place alongside some of the world's most prestigious athletics events for its sustainability initiatives. The marathon now stands in distinguished company with the Boston Marathon (USA), Generali Berliner Half Marathon (Germany), Golden Gala (Italy), Wanda Diamond League Xiamen (China), and BAUHAUS-Galan (Sweden)—events renowned not only for sporting excellence but also for their commitment to environmental responsibility. This achievement places Hyderabad on the global sustainability map of athletics and reinforces India's growing leadership in organising world-class sporting events that balance performance, community engagement and environmental stewardship. From Boston to Berlin, Rome to Hyderabad, the NMDC Hyderabad Marathon has demonstrated that Indian events can match global benchmarks in sustainability and responsible event management.



4th T20I: England bring India to knees, clinch series 3-0

BRISTOL: Captain Harry Brook produced a scintillating 79 not out off just 35 balls while Phil Salt remained unbeaten on 59 off 42 deliveries as England thrashed India by nine wickets with 37 balls to spare in the fourth T20I at the County Ground in Bristol, to clinch the five-match series 3-0 with one game to spare.

Chasing a modest target of 159, England lost Jos Buttler early, but thereafter India had no answers as Brook and Salt stitched together an unbroken 151-run stand for the second wicket. Brook dominated the attack with a flurry of boundaries and sixes, while Salt played the perfect supporting role as England raced to 159/1 in just 13.5 overs, winning with 37 balls to spare.

Earlier, India once again endured a batting collapse before skipper Shreyas Iyer rescued the innings with a fighting 80 off 49 balls. Walking in after the fall of early wickets, Iyer anchored the innings almost single-handedly, striking four fours and five sixes. Shivam Dube chipped in with 22, but no other Indian batter managed to make a significant contribution as the visitors finished on 158/7 in 20 overs.

The victory gives England an unassailable lead in the five-match series, continuing India's disappointing tour in which their batting has repeatedly depended on skipper Iyer. At the same time, the bowling attack has struggled to contain England's aggressive batting lineup. After the first match was abandoned, England won the next three.

BRIEF SCORES

India 158/7 in 20 overs (Shreyas Iyer 80*, Shivam Dube 22; Jofra Archer 2-20, Josh Tongue 2-36) lost to England 159/1 in 13.5 overs (Harry Brook 79*, Phil Salt 59*) by 9 wickets

Doctor assault case

Shiv Sena corporator sent to police custody

A political colour has been given to this matter: Ramesh Mhatre's lawyer

KALYAN

A Kalyan court on Friday sent Shiv Sena Corporator Ramesh Mhatre to police custody till July 13 in connection with the case involving the assault on doctors and nurses at Dombivli's Shastri Nagar Hospital.

He was produced before the Kalyan Sessions Court earlier on Friday after being discharged from Thane Civil Hospital, where doctors declared him medically stable and fit for discharge.

Ramesh Mhatre's lawyer, MK Qazi, said, "A political



colour has been given to this matter. The police had sought five days' police custody, but we objected to it. The court has granted police custody till 13th July. We had filed an application stating that Ramesh Mhatre is a 73-year-old man

surviving on one Kidney, so he needs to be given medical treatment every 6 hours. The court has considered this application and directed the police to make medical treatment available to him if he experiences illness."

Mhatre was arrested on Wednesday under Sections 132 and 121(1) in connection with a case registered at Vishnunagar Police Station in Dombivli. Police said four accused have been arrested in the case so far.

On Thursday, a Kalyan court rejected Mhatre's plea seeking to be produced before the court through video conferencing. The court held that his appearance through video conferencing would not suffice, effectively requiring his physical production before the court for further proceedings.

When will ED freeze Ram temple funds: Derek O'Brien

AAP to launch signature campaign seeking strict punishment to culprits

NEW DELHI

TRINAMOOL Congress Rajya Sabha leader Derek O'Brien on Friday questioned the Enforcement Directorate freezing three bank accounts of the party, asking when it would freeze "temple funds", in an apparent reference to the alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ram temple in Ayodhya. "ED freezes TMC's 3 bank accounts with HDFC. When will ED freeze temple funds," O'Brien, Trinamool's national joint secretary, said in a post on X. The remarks came amid the opposition's demand for a judicial probe into the alleged financial irregularities in the Ram temple's donation manage-



ment system. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday said it has frozen three bank accounts of the Trinamool Congress (TMC), with deposits worth Rs 440 crore, under the anti-money laundering law following searches in an alleged funds misappropriation case. The central agency said in a statement that the orders were issued under Section 17 (1A) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). AAP national convener

Arvind Kejriwal on Friday said the party will launch a nation-wide signature campaign seeking strict punishment for the culprits in the Ram temple donations theft controversy, saying people have to come together and raise their voice in the matter. Kejriwal also accused the Centre of protecting those responsible for the alleged theft of donations at Ram temple in Ayodhya. "It is the duty of every Sanatan follower to ensure strict punishment for those responsible for donations theft at the Ram temple. We will launch a signature campaign in which every citizen will sign a letter addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi stating their appeal," Kejriwal said.



Mumbai-Pune rail disruption: 30 trains cancelled till July 17

MUMBAI: Rail connectivity on the Mumbai-Pune corridor will remain crippled till July 17, as the Central Railway has cancelled 30 long-distance and intercity trains, following landslides on the Bhor Ghat section, officials said on Friday.

Heavy, torrential downpours on July 6 triggered multiple landslides between Karjat and Lonavala stations, severely damaging all three railway lines. The landslides mainly occurred at the Thakurwadi and Monkey Hill cabins on the ghat section. While restoration work is underway on a war footing, difficult terrain and dangerous working conditions are delaying the full resumption of normal services, officials said. The Central Railway, in a release, said that it has cancelled 30 train services, including 14 daily trains, eight services on specified dates and eight special trains.

It announced the temporary cancellation of daily trains, including the Deccan Queen, Deccan Express, Intercity Express services between Mumbai and Pune, the CSMT-Hyderabad Express, Chennai Egmore Superfast Mail and the Hubballi-Dadar Express, from July 10 to July 17.



that granted him protection from coercive action.

HC orders Abhishek to give voice sample

KOLKATA

THE Calcutta High Court on Friday directed Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee to give his voice sample to a judicial magistrate on July 15 in a case over alleged

intimidatory statements he made during the West Bengal assembly election campaign.

Justice Saugata Bhattacharya expressed his displeasure over Banerjee's delay in providing his voice sample and warned of advancing the

hearing of his plea seeking quashing of proceedings in the matter and recalling an order granting the MP protection from coercive action.

The court directed police authorities to ensure that Banerjee is not subjected to

egg-pelting or any other harassment when he appears before the jurisdictional court or the investigating agency. Justice Bhattacharya said Banerjee's revision petition against a Bidhananagar court directing him to give his

voice sample before a magistrate in connection with the probe into the speech case was "dismissed as prayed" in view of the prayer by the MP's counsel.

The court directed the Lok Sabha MP to appear before

the judicial magistrate on July 15 at noon to record his voice sample. He was directed to cooperate with the probe and comply with notices by the investigating officer as mentioned in the high court's May 21 order