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Duckett's century
inspires England's
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win over India



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Antonelli takes
sixth win of the
season with win
at Belgian GP

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GULF TIMES

SPORT

FOOTBALL

Spain dethrone Argentina, become world champions



Spain captain Rodri lifts the FIFA World Cup trophy as players celebrate after the team's victory against Argentina at New York/New Jersey Stadium in East Rutherford yesterday. (AFP)

SPAIN BATTLE PAST 10-MAN ARGENTINA 1-0 IN EXTRA TIME TO ADD WORLD CUP TITLE TO EUROPEAN CROWN

Reuters
East Rutherford, New Jersey

Spain climbed again to the summit of world football yesterday when substitute Ferran Torres struck in the 106th minute to prise the World Cup from holders Argentina with a 1-0 victory that crowned a new era but brought precious little beauty.

The biggest prize in football deserved a classic. Instead, the world's two finest teams produced a suffocating stalemate that drifted towards penalties before Torres finally found the breakthrough with Spain's 20th attempt on goal.

It was perhaps fitting that the final whistle sparked the game's liveliest moments, with players pushing, shoving and falling to the ground as Argentina's frustrations finally boiled over into a brawl.

The euphemism "one for the purists" might have been coined to describe this contest. It was a match almost entirely devoid of quality, chances and risk until Torres, introduced from the bench, finally broke the deadlock.

Messi, the second player after Brazilian great Cafu to feature in three World Cup finals, was a pale shadow of his earlier self, unable to inspire his team.

For Spain, Lamine Yamal barely registered. These two had been billed as the stars of this match, but it was Spain substitutes Torres and Nico Williams who injected some much-needed energy and dynamism into a drab affair.

It was the fifth of the last six World Cup finals to go to extra time, but none of those crowds had endured such flat, joyless football.



Ferran Torres shoots and scores his team's first goal during the World Cup final against Argentina yesterday. (AFP)

minutes of a World Cup final. Argentina seemed content to niggle, pull shirts, shove, foul and disrupt rather than attack. In some respects, it was remarkable they finished with only one red card, Enzo Fernandez being dismissed for flattening Pau Cubarsi in stoppage time.

After more than a month of scintillating goals and exhilarating sport, this was no advertisement for what the hosts call soccer.

One can only imagine what U.S. President Donald Trump, watching alongside FIFA chief Gianni Infantino in a glassed-off VIP box, made of the spectacle.

In truth, this was the toughest of sells, even for the purists.

Spain dominated possession but were too

less in attack. In total, they had 20 attempts on goal, 12 on target. Possession only gets you so far in a sport where goals settle results.

The official FIFA statistics registered Argentina as having two attempts at goal. None were on target and the term attempt was being used loosely.

Spain coach Luis de la Fuente lavished praise on his players

De la Fuente, who at 65 became the oldest coach to guide a team to a World Cup triumph, led Spain to the Euro 2024 title and his team are now unbeaten in 38 matches in all competitions - a record for any team from Europe or South America.

"I'm so proud of this generation of footballers who have grown up with this philosophy, remained true to it, made it even better, and set an example as a team and a family - they're excellent, world-



Pau Cubarsi, Rodri and Unai Simon of Spain pose with their awards. (AFP)

class footballers with exceptional talent," he told reporters.

"I'm very moved. Looking back and thinking about them, we've won everything, absolutely everything, with this generation of players."

Spain conceded only one goal in the tournament but struggled to find a cutting edge in front of goal for the first 115 minutes against an obdurate Argentina team, who were reduced to 10 men when Enzo Fernandez was dismissed for a second yellow card in stoppage time at the end of 90 minutes.

"The match should have been decided much earlier ... but this is a World Cup final and you have to dig deep even against ten men, and we're prepared for anything," De la Fuente added.

Matchwinner Ferran Torres said his goal belonged to the whole of Spain and expressed his relief at finally coming through for the team after criticism of his performances in the tournament.

"It was a goal scored by 47 million people - it wasn't even mine or from the 26 players! It was destined to happen; it was meant to be a winner," he said.

"Whilst all finals are tough, when you're up against (Argen-

tina's Lionel) Messi, you do get a bit nervous. We played better football. I've been heavily criticised throughout the World Cup. Thank God, who always gives me the strength to carry on. God gives things to those who deserve them most."

Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni admitted Spain were the better team following his team's defeat.

Substitute Ferran Torres scored in the second period of extra-time as Spain finally broke down 10-man Argentina to win 1-0 at the MetLife Stadium.

The South American champions, featuring star player Lionel Messi, had been seeking to become the first team since 1962 to win back-to-back World Cups.

"They were the better side - that's the truth - but I'll cherish the memory of them (his side), of what they achieved, and of the value of making it this far," Scaloni said.

SHOWBIZ RAZZMATAZZ

Singers, flags, fireworks, podiums, pop stars and Hollywood idols had flooded the pitch in the buildup to this clash. The greater surprise was that the kickoff was delayed only five minutes by all the showbiz razzmatazz.

CRICKET

Duckett, Bethell and Buttler power England to series win

India's Rohit smashes 138 but his final innings at Lord's goes in vain as England clinch ODI series



England's Ben Duckett (left) and Jacob Bethell in action during the third one-day international against India at Lord's cricket ground in London yesterday. (AFP)

Reuters
London

England beat India by 27 runs in a high-scoring contest at Lord's yesterday to secure their first bilateral one-day international series victory against the world's number one-ranked side since 2018.

Opener Ben Duckett laid the foundations with a record-breaking 141 from 135 balls as England took the series 2-1.

It was the highest innings in an ODI at Lord's, eclipsing Viv Richards's 138 not out in the 1979 World Cup final, and helped England to a colossal total of 387-3 in their 50 overs. Rohit Sharma gave India hope with a thrilling 138 from 110 balls which served to underline his continuing value to India after the talk over whether he still

has a future in the side but, with Sam Curran taking 4-75, the huge target proved beyond the tourists. It has been a disappointing white-ball trip all round for India who also lost both their T20 series to Ireland and England.

Duckett, who hit 18 fours and one six, shared in an opening stand of 192 - England's highest in an ODI against India - with Jacob Bethell, who made 91. From that launchpad, England were able to post their highest total at Lord's in an ODI with Joe Root hitting 74 not out - his sixth successive ODI half-century - and Jos Buttler an unbeaten 41 off just 13 balls.

India's attack, missing Jasprit Bumrah with a knee injury, suffered badly. Gurnoor Brar's figures of 0-97 in his 10 overs were the most expensive for his country against England in an ODI while Prince Yadav, who bowled seven wides, took 1-79.

The total made for a daunting task for India's batsmen but Rohit and Shubman Gill responded with a 147-run first-wicket stand. Shubman departed for 77 but Rohit powered on to reach his 34th ODI hundred. However, once the 39-year-old had gone, bowled by the slow left arm spin of Bethell, India fell further and further behind the required run rate. The loss of three wickets in the space of seven deliveries from Curran effectively ended the pursuit. Ishan Kishan and Shreyas Iyer both fell to catches in the deep by substitute Rehan Ahmed before Virat Kohli miscued to England captain Harry Brook to depart for 74.

BRIEF SCORES
England 387 for 3 (Duckett 141, Bethell 91, Root 74*, Buttler 41*) **beat India 360 for 7** (Rohit 138, Gill 77, Kohli 74) **by 27 runs**



India's Rohit Sharma celebrates after reaching his century against England at Lord's Cricket Ground yesterday. (Reuters)

CYCLING

Evenepoel claims stage, Vingegaard crashes out

AFP
Plateau de Solaison, France

Olympic champion Remco Evenepoel beat race leader Tadej Pogacar in a sprint finish to take yesterday's 15th stage of the Tour de France, as former winner Jonas Vingegaard crashed out with a broken collarbone hours after he was woken by anti-doping controllers in the middle of the night.

Evenepoel edged out the reigning champion at the end of the tough 11km-long climb to the finish. Pogacar's UAE Emirates-XRG team-mate Isaac Del Toro was third, six seconds back.

"It's amazing. I'm literally trembling from emotion," Evenepoel said at the finish of the 183.9km stage from Champagnole to Plateau de Solaison after his first Tour road-stage victory following two time-trial successes.

"It's been a hell of a day. A pretty hard start, I was actually feeling really bad in the beginning, but I really got better and better during the day.

"You have to understand how I'm racing with the best rider ever (Pogacar), and he has been doing a hell of a climb to try to win the stage with Isaac (Del Toro)."

The main drama of the day came when two-time former winner Vingegaard crashed out, breaking his collarbone, for which he will require surgery.

The 29-year-old Dane went down hard on a bend as his Visma-Lease a Bike team were setting a fierce pace to chase down the day's breakaway.

Both he and Pogacar were amongst a number of riders woken in the night by anti-doping controllers from the International Testing Agency (ITA).

Vingegaard was woken at 2:00 am while Pogacar was tested three hours later.

Pogacar said that the disruption to their sleep could have contributed to Vingegaard's crash.

"It ruined his sleep. It got me



Belgian rider Remco Evenepoel cycles to the finish line to win the 15th stage ahead of Slovenian rider Tadej Pogacar during the Tour de France yesterday. (AFP)

thinking that it could also be a small percentage why he crashed because he probably didn't sleep well today," said the 27-year-old Slovenian, adding that it could have affected his concentration.

He described the night-time testing as "inhuman", while Evenepoel blasted it as "disrespectful".

"The ITA is conscious that night-time testing may be disruptive to riders' rest and recovery," the ITA said in a statement.

"However, the ITA, on behalf of the UCI (International Cycling Union), has the responsibility to ensure the effectiveness of the cycling anti-doping programme and the integrity of cycling races."

Visibly in pain, Vingegaard was helped into a medical vehicle with his arm in a sling and taken for an X-ray.

"Jonas sustained a fractured

collarbone and multiple abrasions," Visma said in a statement.

"Due to the severity of the collarbone fracture, surgical intervention has been recommended and will be performed in the coming days."

Giro d'Italia champion Vingegaard had never before failed to finish a Grand Tour.

In his five previous participations at the Tour, he won twice and finished second in the other three. He had started the day in second.

With Vingegaard now out of the race, Pogacar increased his lead in the overall standings to five minutes.

"I'm really, really disappointed and really sad for him that he goes home," Pogacar said of his arch rival.

The pair have won the last six editions of the Tour between

them, finishing first and second in the last five.

"The Tour will not be the same without him," Belgian Evenepoel, a former winner of the Vuelta a Espana, moved up to second overall with his stage win.

He is the world and Olympic time-trial champion and is expected to win tomorrow's individual race against the clock, which would set him up well to potentially improve on his previous best overall finish of third in 2024.

Del Toro climbed from seventh to third, almost a minute behind Evenepoel, and also snared the best young rider's white jersey from the shoulders of Paul Seixas by 25 seconds. The teenage French prodigy finished fourth, nearly a minute behind the winner, with German Florian Lipowitz, now fifth overall, on his wheel.

SPOTLIGHT

Bangladesh win last T20, take Zimbabwe series

Reuters
Bulawayo

Opener Tanzid Hasan scored an unbeaten 66 as Bangladesh beat Zimbabwe by four wickets yesterday to win the third and final Twenty20 international and take the series 2-1.

Bangladesh reached their target with two balls to spare after Zimbabwe's captain Sikandar Raza won the toss at Queens Sports Club and elected to bat first, scoring 143-7 with Dion Myers hitting 73 before being run out in the final over.

Tanzid's runs came off 58 balls and his 63-run third wicket partnership with skipper Towhid Hridoy laid the platform for Bangladesh's victory, which came despite Brad Evans taking two wickets in the final over.

Zimbabwe had won the opening T20 clash on Wednesday by 32 runs but then lost by 34 runs on Friday. Both of those matches were also played in Bulawayo.

BRIEF SCORES
Bangladesh 144 for 6 (Tanzid 66, Ngarava 2-20) **beat Zimbabwe 143 for 7** (Myers 73, Saifuddin 2-35) **by four wickets**

TENNIS

Tsitsipas wins Swiss Open for his first ATP trophy in 16 months

Reuters
Gstaad

Stefanos Tsitsipas ended a 16-month wait for an ATP Tour title when the Greek defeated Belgium's Raphael Collignon 6-4 6-7(3) 6-3 to win the Swiss Open in Gstaad yesterday.

The victory was Tsitsipas' first title since he beat Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime in the Dubai Tennis Championships final in March 2025 and the 13th ATP singles crown of his career.

"I would like to start by mentioning how amazing the final was today," Tsitsipas said. "It's been a long time so it does mean a lot to me."

The 27-year-old, a former world number three currently ranked 85th in the world, produced a strong serving performance in the two-hour 17-minute contest, firing four aces without a double fault. He won 21 of 29 points on his second serve and saved two of the four break points he faced.



Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas poses with the trophy after his win against Belgium's Raphael Collignon in Gstaad yesterday. (AFP)

Tsitsipas took the opening set before first-time ATP Tour finalist Collignon fought back to level the match in a second-set tiebreak. The Greek regained control in the decider, however, securing the break he needed to seal the title.

The triumph provides a timely confidence boost for two-time Grand Slam finalist Tsitsipas as he looks to build momentum ahead of the US Open, which begins on August 30.

FORMULA 1

Antonelli claims Belgian GP to extend title lead

Antonelli saw off the challenge of Leclerc to get back to winning ways at Spa, Russell failed to finish

AFP
Spa-Francorchamps, Belgium

Italian teenager Kimi Antonelli ended a three-race winless streak yesterday to extend his lead in the Formula One drivers' championship with a solid fighting victory for Mercedes in the Belgian Grand Prix.

The 19-year-old Mercedes driver came home 1.9 seconds ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc with four-time champion Max Verstappen finishing third for Red Bull. Antonelli's teammate George Russell, who began the race in second place in the championship, just 25 points behind the Italian, crashed out of the race on the opening lap after tangling with Hamilton.

Hamilton was fourth for Ferrari after an incident-filled race in which he almost hit a mechanic during a pit-stop. The incident was referred to the stewards leaving the seven-time world champion with the possibility of a further penalty.

Isack Hadjar, who began at the back of the grid, did superbly to work his Red Bull up to sixth, just holding off reigning world champion Lando Norris, who started 13th, in the second McLaren.

Gabriel Bortoleto (Audi), Arvid Lindblad (Racing Bulls) and Franco Colapinto (Alpine) rounded out the top 10. It was Antonelli's sixth win of the season and came from his sixth pole of the year, the first driver to win from pole in Belgium since 2021. It lifts him to



Mercedes' Andrea Kimi Antonelli celebrates with the trophy after winning Belgian Grand Prix yesterday. (Reuters)

204 points in the championship, 45 clear of Hamilton with Russell third on 154.

"It feels very nice to be back on the top step," said Antonelli.

"We just have to keep performing, keep bringing the results and then we will see what will happen at the end of the year."

The race started in cool conditions under a grey sky with rain in the air as Antonelli made a good start to lead up to La Source, but he had no answer when Verstappen deployed his power pack to pass him through Eau Rouge.

The Dutchman was then im-

mediately vulnerable to a counter-attack and both the Italian and Leclerc drafted past him into Les Combes where behind them Hamilton clashed with Russell.

The four-time champion continued in fifth, but Russell bounced off into retirement as a Safety Car (SC) was deployed.

Hamilton reported that he "had no front end" control as a result of a car ahead moving across him and the incident was investigated by the stewards who gave Hamilton a five-second penalty.

A downcast Russell, whose title bid had taken a heavy blow, said:

"It was a racing incident, but it shouldn't have happened if I'd had the speed down the straight."

Racing resumed on lap five with Piastri fighting and resisting Hamilton before Verstappen swept past Leclerc for second. Piastri then chased Leclerc and they touched at Les Combes, where the Monegasque defended and the Australian lost a piece of front wing end plate.

The stewards investigated again, but took 'no further action' while Hamilton advanced and passed Piastri for fourth on lap nine as the race settled after

BELGIAN GRAND PRIX RESULTS

1. Kimi Antonelli (ITA/Mercedes)	1:16.991
1hr 24 mins 42.479sec	12. Liam Lawson (NZL/Racing Bulls) 1:17.523
2. Charles Leclerc (MON/Ferrari) at 1.952sec	13. Nico Huelkenberg (GER/Audi) 1:18.348
3. Max Verstappen (NED/Red Bull) 11.586	14. Oliver Bearman (GBR/Haas) 1:34.465
4. Lewis Hamilton (GBR/Ferrari) 17.245	15. Alexander Albon (THA/Williams) 1:44.684
5. Oscar Piastri (AUS/McLaren) 18.988	16. Carlos Sainz Jr (ESP/Williams) 1:45.856
6. Isack Hadjar (FRA/Red Bull) 23.307	17. Esteban Ocon (FRA/Haas) 1:50.925
7. Lando Norris (GBR/McLaren) 24.014	18. Valtteri Bottas (FIN/Cadillac) 1 lap
8. Gabriel Bortoleto (BRA/Audi) 49.140	19. Fernando Alonso (ESP/Aston Martin) 2 laps
9. Arvid Lindblad (GBR/Racing Bulls) 50.406	Did not finish: George Russell (GBR/Mercedes), Sergio Perez (MEX/Cadillac), Lance Stroll (CAN/Aston Martin)
10. Franco Colapinto (ARG/Alpine) 116.037	
11. Pierre Gasly (FRA/Alpine)	

a frantic start with Antonelli two seconds clear of Verstappen at the front ahead of both Ferraris.

Further Virtual Safety Cars (VSC) intervened and on lap 20, Ferrari went for a 'double-stack'. Leclerc went through cleanly but Hamilton, who had to serve his five-second penalty, made a messy exit touching a mechanic on exit.

The mechanic was reported to be fine but the stewards decided to investigate again for an unsafe release.

That left Norris, who had started 13th with a 10-place grid penalty, for taking a new battery, leading ahead of Leclerc, Antonelli and Verstappen until the Ferrari cruised by to take command on

lap 23.

Antonelli swept past Norris three laps later and surged after Leclerc while Hamilton, who had requested a wing adjustment in vain during his pit-stop, fell back to sixth.

Norris finally pitted to swap his old hards for mediums on lap 31, rejoining eighth after a slow stop due to a sticky left rear, Hadjar rising to sixth behind Hamilton.

Leclerc led until lap 34 when, as he feared, Antonelli's superior power carried him through at Les Combes.

But he hung on tight, within a second of the silver arrow, while Hamilton passed Piastri for fourth with five laps to go.

Qatar's Samba finishes third in London Diamond League



Qatar's Abderrahman Samba (third left) finished third in the men's 400m hurdles at the London Diamond League on Saturday, the 11th meeting of the 2026 season. Samba clocked 48.10 seconds to finish behind Germany's Emil Agyekum, who was second in 47.45, and Norway's Karsten Warholm, who won in a world-leading 46.61. The London meeting marked Samba's second Diamond League appearance of the season after the opening event in Xiamen, where he recorded his season's best of 47.93 seconds. His podium finish keeps the Qatari in contention for the Diamond Trophy ahead of the remaining meetings in Silesia, Zurich and Brussels in September.

GOLF

Fox birdies No. 18 to cap comeback win at Open

Reuters
Southport, England

Ryan Fox emerged from the pack on the back nine at Royal Birkdale Golf Club and sank an 11 1/2-foot birdie putt at No. 18 to win the 154th Open Championship yesterday in Southport, England.

The 39-year-old from New Zealand captured his first major title by birdieing four of the final six holes thanks to a series of terrific approach shots and clutch putts. His 2-under-par 68 put him at 10-under 270 for the championship. Cameron Young looked on for about 2 1/2 hours after setting the clubhouse lead at 9-under 271 with a 64, the low round of the day. The No. 4 player in the world rankings will rue his only bogey of the day at the par-4 18th, where he had to punch out of a fairway bunker only to land in another bunker to the right of the green.

Sam Burns, the 54-hole leader, bogeyed three straight holes at Nos. 4-6 and followed that with 12 consecutive pars as he posted a 2-over 72 to place third at 8 under.

Fox entered the day at 8 under, two off Burns' lead, and played with him in the final pairing after a remarkable Saturday round of 62.

He was 1 over for his round after 12 holes but sank a 12-footer for birdie at No. 13 and tapped in another at the par-4 15th. He had an unlucky break off the tee at the par-3 15th, a difficult lie in a bunker that forced him to lay up and play for bogey. But he got the stroke right back at No. 16 with a 10-foot birdie roll, bringing him back level with Young before the big finish.

World No. 1 Scottie Scheffler (67) and hometown favorite Tommy Fleetwood (68) were tied for fourth at 7 under. Fleetwood grew up in Southport, just down the road from Royal Birkdale; he was undone by three straight bogeys at Nos. 9-11, but an improbable 73-foot birdie at the first hole and closing birdies at Nos. 17-18 electrified the pro-Fleetwood crowd.

New Zealand's Ryan Fox celebrates with the Claret Jug after winning The 154th Open at Royal Birkdale Golf Club, Southport, Britain, yesterday.



BADMINTON

Sindhu becomes first Indian to win Japan Open



India's P. V. Sindhu (left) takes a selfie with Japan's Akane Yamaguchi after defeating her in the Japan Open final in Tokyo yesterday. (AFP)

AFP
Tokyo

Indian badminton star Pusarla Venkata Sindhu ended a title drought of almost two years at the Japan Open yesterday and said winning would give her "a lot of confidence".

Sindhu, a world champion in 2019 and Olympic silver medalist in 2016, beat Japan's Akane Yamaguchi 21-17, 21-17 in Tokyo to win the competition for the first time. It was her first title since she won the Syed Modi India International in Lucknow in 2024. Sindhu has set her sights on a medal on home soil when New Delhi hosts the world championships next month, and she said her win in Japan would boost her chances.

"This one was very important because playing in finals is one thing, but winning and getting that gold is a different thing altogether," the 31-year-old said. "I'm happy that I'm on the positive side. This gives me a lot of confidence."

Sindhu was playing in her first final since winning in Lucknow, after losing in the semi-finals twice on badminton's world tour this year. She is currently ranked number 10 in the world.

Sindhu jumped out to an early lead against world number three Yamaguchi and held on to take the first game. She clinched the title when Yamaguchi hit a shot that was called in, only for Sindhu to successfully overturn it with a challenge.

"I had tears in my eyes because it was really important to me," Sindhu said.

"I am working hard and focusing hard on myself. 'I kept believing that I could do it, even though a lot of people were wondering what was happening'"

POPOV WINS MEN'S TITLE
France's Christo Popov captured

the men's singles title, beating Japan's Koki Watanabe 21-11, 21-19 in the final. It was Popov's third title of the year, following wins at the European Championships and German Open. "It's a great performance, it's one of the biggest things I've done in my life," said world number five Popov, who was the fifth seed in Tokyo.

"I'm actually very happy to do it in Japan. I've always liked the country, the culture and respect." Popov said his performances in Tokyo had convinced him that he can win a medal at the world championships.

"I know it's very difficult, way harder than here," the 24-year-old said. "I think the pressure is much higher as well and the players will be ready 100 percent there. I want a medal, that's my goal."

China's Feng Yanzhe and Huang Dongping won the mixed doubles title, beating Hong Kong's Tang Chun Man and Tse Ying Suet 21-14, 14-21, 21-15. South Korea's Kim Hye-Jeong and Kong Hee-yong won the women's doubles title after an epic battle against China's Jia Yifan and Zhang Shuxian, eventually triumphing 14-21, 21-15, 30-29.



France's Christo Popov celebrates after his victory against Japan's Koki Watanabe in their final of the Japan Open in Tokyo yesterday. (AFP)



GLIMPSES OF THE FINAL



General view as a kids choir from Staten Island perform during the World Cup final halftime show at New York/New Jersey Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, US yesterday. (Reuters)



General view inside the stadium before the match. (Reuters)



A general view before the World Cup final between Spain and Argentina. (AFP)



Tennis player Carlos Alcaraz and actress Hyeon with The Louis Vuitton Trophy Trunk inside the stadium before the final. (Reuters)



British pop star Robbie Williams, American singer Nicole Scherzinger and Italian singer Laura Pausini perform during the ceremony. (Reuters)



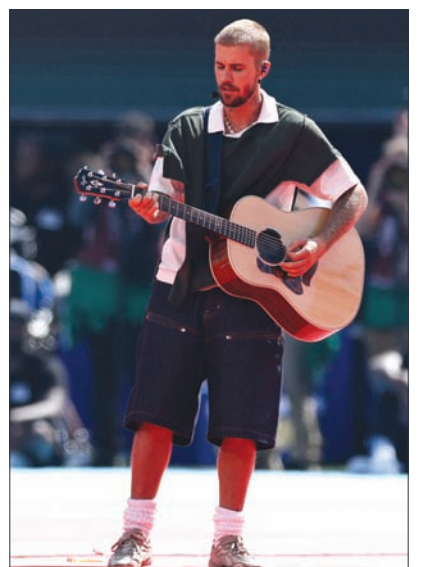
Argentina's Lionel Messi and Nicolas Otamendi look dejected after losing the World Cup final as Spain's Lamine Yamal celebrates winning the World Cup. (Reuters)



Shakira performs during the Topps Final half-time show. (AFP)



RM, Jin, Suga, J-Hope, Jimin, V and Jung Kook of BTS perform during the halftime show. (AFP)



Justin Bieber performs during the halftime show. (AFP)



Former Spanish player Sergio Ramos displays the World Cup Trophy for the ceremony after the final match. (AFP)



Singer Jennifer Hudson performs the US national anthem before the match. (Reuters)