

Use of References in English News Articles

2022

– KishorOli

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**A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English Education
In Partial Fulfilment for the Masters of Education in English**

**Submitted by
Kishor Oli**

**Faculty of Education
Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur
Kathmandu, Nepal
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**T.U. Reg. No.: 9-2-676-25-2013
M.Ed. Fourth Semester
Exam Roll No. 7328084/2074**

**Date of Approval of Thesis
Proposal: 24/12/2021
Date of Submission: 23/02/2022**

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Declaration

I hereby declare to the best of my knowledge that this thesis is original: no part of it was earlier submitted for the candidature of research degree to any university.

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Dedication

This work is affectionately
dedicated
to my wonderful *Parents*
for their unconditional sacrifices and being a source of inspiration, wisdom and proper
guidance.

Acknowledgements

This study would not have been possible without the support of a number of people including my supervisor, teachers, respondents, family members and friends. At the beginning, I would like to remember the debts that I received from all and acknowledge their support.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my Thesis supervisor, **Mr. Bhim Prasad Wasti**, Reader, Department of English Education, T.U., Kirtipur. Without his invaluable support, guidance, encouragement and belief on me, I would have never been able to accomplish this work. More specifically, I am always indebted to him for his incredible support and constructive feedback throughout the study. Similarly, I would like to express my profound gratitude to **Dr. Gopal Prasad Pandey**, Reader and Head, Department of English Education, T.U., Kirtipur for his constructive comments and suggestions

I would also like to thank **Dr. Hari Maya Sharma**, Lecturer, Department of English Education, T.U., Kirtipur for his inspirations, productive comments and kind suggestions during the viva of the study.

Similarly I would like my sincere gratitude to **Prof. Dr. Binod Luitel**, external supervisor, English Education, Research Center for Educational Innovation and Development (CERID) T.U., Kirtipur, Kathmandu for providing me well feedback and suggestion being as an external supervisor during my thesis presentation.

Moreover, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the external supervisor for his corrective feedback and encouragement at the time of viva of this thesis. Furthermore, my deepest appreciation goes to my Gurus and Gurumas **Prof. Dr. Tara Datta Bhatta**, **Prof. Dr. Balmaukunda Bhandari**, **Prof. Dr. Purna Bahadur Kadel**, **Dr. Madhu Naupane**, **Mr. Guru Prasad Poudel**, **Mr. Khemraj Joshi**, **Mr. Ashok Sapkota**, **Dr. Peshal Khanal**, **Mr. Resham Acharya** for their constructive feedback and invaluable suggestions. In the same way, I would like to extend my humble gratitude to all the respected teachers of Department of English education, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur for being a source of inspiration and for

their kind supports. Likewise I can't stay without giving my thanks to **Ms. Suzu Gazmer** for her kindly supports to complete my thesis from beginning phase. And I am thankful to **Mr. Santosh Gupta** for his technical support for the accomplishment of the study. Finally, my special gratitude also goes to owner of the stationary for providing newspaper that facilitated easy access to the research and who were generous with their feedback and encouragement.

Kishor Oli

Abstract

This study is entitled as the **Use of References in English News Article**. The aim of this study was to analyze the grammatical cohesion through the references in the sports news of the Kathmandu Post to critically examine the cataphoric and anaphoric references in the sports news and to suggest some pedagogical implications. A quantitative research design was employed to study references used in news articles in English. The data of this study included forty three sports news of The Kathmandu Post. The data were analyzed about references used in the sports news by using survey research design. The data were collected using observation checklists as the tools of data collection. It was found that the writer of news stories used pronominal references with 22.03 % in the sports news. Similarly, demonstrative references 'that' was used more frequently i.e.43.69 % in the sports news. While analyzing the references it was found that anaphoric references more highly used i.e. 84.9 % whereas cataphoric references were used 15.1 % respectively. It showed clearly that most of the writer of news used anaphoric references

The present study includes five chapters. The first chapter deals with introduction including background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, research questions, significance of the study, delimitations of the study and operational definitions of the key terms. Chapter two deals with review of related literature and conceptual framework which consists of review of related theoretical literature, review of related empirical literature, implications of the review for the study and conceptual framework. Chapter three deals with methods and procedures of the study including design of the study, population, sample and sampling strategy, research tools, sources of data, data collection procedures, data analysis and interpretation and ethical consideration. Similarly, chapter four deals with analysis and interpretation of data. Likewise, chapter five deals with conclusion, and implications. Finally, the references and appendices are included at the end of this work respectively.

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List of Abbreviations

CDA	:	Critical Discourse Analysis
TKP	:	The Kathmandu Post
Feb.	:	February
FIFA	:	Federation of International Football Association
NA	:	News Article
NS	:	News Stories
T.U	:	Tribhuvan University
M.Ed.	:	Master of Education
M.A.	:	Master of Arts
PR	:	Perosanal References
DR	:	Demonstrative Reference
PP	:	Personal Pronoun
SP	:	Subjective Pronoun
OP	:	Objective Pronoun

Chapter I

Introduction

This is a study on **Use of Reference in English News Articles**. Throughout the study, I try to examine the references through cohesion such as cataphoric and anaphoric references. This introductory part of research proposal includes background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, research questions, significance of the study, delimitations of the study and operational definition of the key terms.

Background of the Study

Newspapers have become an essential part of modern life. The modern people start their day by reading over the news with a cup of tea. Equally unimaginable is a morning without the daily newspaper for some people. Newspapers are called "the mirrors of the world and live textbooks. They reflect the trends happening from all parts of the world. Usually, they cover every aspects of life, national, international, local, social, cultural and political.

Over the past decades, many researchers have uncovered that the power of mass media is undeniable. The mass media as the dominant part of the dominant groups or elites supplies social power over its recipients via text and talk. So, it is a powerful tool for the elite group in particular, to affect and control not only the communicative actions but also the minds of their recipients. Fowler (1991 as cited in Biebuyck, 2014) defines news not necessarily as a reflection of reality but as a product shaped by political, economic and cultural forces. Members of elite groups like politicians, journalists, scholars, judges and businessmen use news stories to convey knowledge, change attitude and influence the opinions.

News articles possess specific linguistic and semantic aspects. For example, we observe inter and intra semantical linkage both in lexical and grammatical forms.

Ghannam (2011) says that news is a representation of the world in language that is considered to be neutral, unbiased, and a mediator. However, the certain elite ideologies are closely linked to power and domination and they are located in

language. That is why; the role of the media is questioned to be free from ideological influence these days. The press should ideally provide a truthful, comprehensive and intelligent account of the day's events presented in a context which gives them meaning. The dominant sociopolitical scenario and commerciality do not let any media to be neutral and value free. So, the print media are also formed with certain economic and political ideology.

Newspapers represent news magazines, offering lengthy analyses of evolving events of the world and featuring newsworthy people, corporations, and social trends, and at the same time displaying layouts that increasingly prioritize photographs (Franklin, 2008). Where they cannot compete with online news media on the basis of speed, newspapers are distinguishing themselves by beefing up the depth of information, analysis, and coverage of trends that are not published elsewhere (Usher, 2010).

As newspapers, they still strive to retain their identity. Many articles that are intended to supply readers with background, perspectives, and interpretation about important public events may contain references to related events that most recently happened—the day before the publication of the article—to add a touch of newsiness, blurring the line between straight news stories and analytical articles. Straight news stories may also employ situational, anecdotal, and other descriptive types of leads rather than the traditional 5W1H lead paragraph that dictates an inverted pyramid structure (Fink & Schudson, 2014).

The change in content and style of writing speaks to today's field of journalism being in a state of flux. Yet, the assumption that newspaper articles are, in principle, written in an inverted pyramid style continues to dominate the research literature (Benson & Hallin, 2007; Hartsock, 2007; Pottker, 2003; Sternadori & Wise, 2009; Thomson, White, & Kitley, 2008). In this article, I argue that changes in content and style—the declining number of straight news articles as well as delayed reference to the event and its timeframe—together represent a near-death of the conventional inverted pyramid structure as a representative news category. Also, this study argues against the still-predominant scholarly assumption that newspapers print news articles as traditionally known.

Topographical (layout) changes of the newspaper are also noteworthy. Newspapers are not only becoming more feature and analytically oriented but also printing fewer articles on the front page (Fink & Schudson, 2014), accompanied by the growing practice of carrying a large display photo, attesting to the growing feature orientation of the newspaper design, which, combined with good, readable text, provides readers with “experience”

The changes in forms of news bear potentially broad theoretical significance in political communication because of their hypothesized impact on public deliberation (Wessler, 2008). The transformation of American newspapers from a producer of fact-based discourse to evaluative/interpretive discourse could be of concern to studies that draw theoretically on comparative media systems (Benson & Hallin, 2007; Hallin & Mancini, 2004) that presume a strong contrast, for instance, between that of the United States and France, with U.S. papers considered to be largely fact-based and those in France being oriented toward providing analysis and interpretation. It represents a differential pattern that emerged during the formative years in the respective media systems during the 19th century (Chalaby, 1996).

Among the different textual features present in a news article, reference is one of the most common aspects. It is a rhetorical device which states the information that has already discussed. Reference is used as one of the most important cohesive device. So, in this study I will observe the use of reference in news article writing.

Statement of the Problem

Electronic and print media share different news, messages, information, advertisements, education and knowledge . It means such types of media educate to the people. In the world, many of the people read newspaper daily and they take some information from them. So, the use of language should be accurate and appropriate in the news stories. News stories should have simple, clear, interesting, and correct language. News stories include a wide range of textual features. They are developed by the integration of the sentences both form and sense. Similarly, Cohesion, coherence and references should be balanced and accurate in news stories. Several studies have been carried out in this area but no study has carried out in this area but no study has analyzed the analysis of language used in the news stories of The

Kathmandu Post . So sometimes the intended meaning of news stories may not be match with our literal meaning. For the English as a foreign language learner, it creates the problems while reading the English newspaper stories because EFL learners may not understand the ways of delivering news, cohesion, coherence, reference like cataphoric anaphoric.

Analysis of the textual features like cohesive devices for example references used in news articles is importance as it has become a research back drop.

However, only few studies has yet been carried out on this aspect. So far I looked for the literature related to this issue. I have not found any specific studies on references used in news articles under the Department of English Education. I think it is revalued gap and I would like to address such a gap throughout this study.

So, this study will address the analysis of language used in the news stories of The Kathmandu Post in terms of references, cataphori, anaphori Language of newspaper cannot depict the proper and appropriate message to the public all the time. It may be due to the lack of ideas to the news reporter and author. So, the news need to use appropriate structures of language.

Thus, it is necessary to study the analysis of language used in the news stories of The Kathmandu Post to find out the cohesion, coherence and references. The new researcher will get the new ideas on the use of references in text construction.

Objectives of the Study

This study had the following objectives:-

-) To find out the references used in news articles of English
-) To identify the case of anaphoric and cataphoric references in news articles
-) To suggest some pedagogical implications

Research Questions

The following research questions were addressed throughout the study:

-) What are the different references being used in the news articles in English?

-) Do the writers in news articles make use of references in anaphoric and cataphoric ways?

Rationale of the Study

Present study is beneficial and significant to those who are involving and interested in journalism specially news reporters, news readers, and editors. This study will be useful for the students, teachers, journalists, and language practitioners' materials developers. The work is equally fruitful to the language teachers while teaching lessons related to news writing on references. The work facilitates the people who want to carry out the research in this field in the future.

Delimitations of the Study

This study had some limitations.

-) At first, it was only limited on the reference used in news articles in English.
-) Ten regular sports news articles published in Kathmandu Post were included as the sample for the study.
-) Survey research design was used on the reference.
-) Check list was used as the tools.

Operational Definitions of the Key Terms

The operational meanings of the key terms used in this study are as follows:

Cohesion. According to Halliday and Hasan (1976) cohesion is an important and necessary element to create a text. It is the connection existing between elements in the text. Cohesion sticks sentences together to have a meaning.

Grammatical cohesion. According to McCarthy (1991) grammatical cohesion is one kind of cohesion. It is concerned with the relationship between sentences. These cohesive devices link sentences together to create a cohesive text.

Reference. According to Halliday and Hassan (1976) Reference items can function within a text in two different ways: exophoric is referring out of the text to an

item in the world. Endophoric is referring to textual items either by cataphora (forward reference) or anaphora (backward reference)

Cataphoric reference. It means that a word in a text refers to another later in the text and you need to look forward to understand. It can be compared with anaphoric reference, which means a word refers back to another word for its meaning.

Anaphoric reference. Anaphoric reference means that a word in a text refers back to other ideas in the text for its meaning. It can be compared with cataphoric reference, which means a word refers to ideas later in the text.

Endophoric reference. Endophora refers to the phenomenon of expressions that derive their reference from something within the surrounding text.

Exophoric reference. Exophoric reference occurs when a word or phrase refers to something **outside** the discourse.

Chapter II

Literature Review

This chapter appends review of related theoretical literature, review of empirical literature, implications of the review for the study and conceptual framework for the study.

Review of Related Theoretical Literature

Review of theoretical literature is crucial for conducting any research works. It helps to find out the gap in knowledge and to develop theoretical and conceptual framework. Similarly, it also helps to investigate the problem that the researcher wants to explore. The most important function of the literature review is to ensure that the researcher studied critically about the subject matter in which he/she carry out research work.

Print media. Topical surveys on the significance and use of print media prove that the need for print media is growing worldwide. This is indicated by the fact that at the end of the millenium Time Magazine acknowledged the sociocultural significance of the invention and utilization of book printing and elected Johannes Gutenberg's work as the most crucial event of the millennium. It is true that the age of electronic media has started; however printed information is and remains omnipresent.

The market for print products offers more variety than ever before. Usually, printed products are categorized into commercial printing and periodicals. This classification differentiates printed matter with regard to its frequency of publication. Since the production process also depends largely on these basic conditions, print shops usually specialize in one or the other market segment.

Commercial printing refers to print products that are produced occasionally (e. g., catalogs, brochures, leaflets, business cards). Periodicals are printed matter that appears periodically (e.g., newspapers, journals, magazines). Publishing houses and companies are the typical clients for periodicals printing.

Another way of categorizing printed mass medium. It was not only more efficient production processes but also the availability of inexpensive paper that were decisive reasons for the breakthrough of books as mass media. The printed book developed its independent appearance over time. The form of the type used moved away from imitated script types to its own type forms.

Books. Gutenberg's work and his invention, printing with movable lead type, in the middle of the fifteenth century triggered a revolution in book production. A much greater proportion of the population had the chance to acquire education, culture, and information than had ever been possible with hand-written books. Consequently, illiteracy decreased in the following centuries. Books continued to be colored by hand even after Gutenberg's invention, so that very colorful volumes of high quality comparable to earlier ones were still produced.

Magazines. The range of magazines consists mainly of periodicals, including trade magazines, journals, and illustrated magazines. Trade magazines cover a limited field, thus attracting a limited specialist readership. Unlike books, production costs for magazines are not paid for exclusively by the final consumer. Often more than half of the costs are financed by advertising.

Magazines are usually published by publishing houses just like books. Unlike books, magazines usually have a shorter lifespan. This is due to the content and it is a major characteristic of the periodical. Since magazines have a limited length of use and differ from books greatly in terms of content, their external form also differs from that of books.

Magazine production differs considerably from book production. Magazines are generally multi colored booklets with a flexible cover. They often have a high circulation and are bound using simple binding processes (e.g., wire-stitching, perfect binding). Depending on the circulation, magazines are printed with sheet-fed offset or web offset presses but rotogravure presses are also used for magazines with a very high circulation.

Newspapers. The newspaper is still one of the most significant mass media today. The first newspapers appeared at the start of the seventeenth century.

Pamphlets in the sixteenth century were the precursor of the newspaper. Most newspapers are produced daily and have a high circulation. Some daily papers even appear a few times per day, to ensure that their content is very up-to-date. The two most important categories of newspapers are daily papers (dailies) and weekly papers.

The external appearance of newspapers differs considerably from that of magazines. Newspapers normally consist of large-size loose sheets. Several of these loose sheets are combined during production and form an individual section of the paper. A newspaper consists of several sections/parts with varying content called "newspaper books."

Generally, newspapers are produced on special newspaper printing presses. These presses are highly productive web presses, which can print on uncoated paper, at low cost. The traditional newspaper used to be black and white. Modern printing presses are able to print in color economically. This has created the opportunity to adapt the newspaper's appearance to today's expectations (colour photographs, color TV), but also to conform to the wish of many advertising customers that their advertisements be published in color. The production of a newspaper is mainly financed by advertising inserts and advertisements. For this reason the ultimate consumer price for a newspaper is relatively low.

Brochures. Along with advertising inserts, which we come across every day in newspapers and magazines, there is a large market for leaflets and product descriptions. Such printed matter is referred to as brochures. Unlike magazines and newspapers, they are not published periodically. Brochures are commercial print work. Another significant difference from newspapers or magazines is the usually low print volume of brochures.

Today, brochures are generally printed in color and available either as folded individual sheets or bound copies. They are of better quality than newspapers. Brochures are mainly used to describe something particular (e.g., company, product). Brochures are mostly used for advertising; therefore production costs are normally borne by the advertiser and not by the reader.

Other printed media. Packaging represents another important group of printed products. It can be made of very different materials such as paper, cardboard, plastic, metal, glass, and so on. In the first place, packaging is used to protect the actual goods inside, but it also makes for an attractive presentation. At the same time packaging is also printed on to provide information about the package content. All the major printing technologies are used for printing packaging - often in a combination of several technologies.

History of newspaper. A newspaper is a serial publication which contains news on current events of special or general interest. The individual parts are listed chronologically or numerically and appear frequently, usually at least once a week but sometimes fortnightly or monthly. Traditionally newspapers are printed on newsprint paper, usually appear without a cover, folded rather than bound together, with a masthead, and are normally larger than 297 mm x 420 mm in size. They may include supplements such as colour magazines, or other inserts for special features or events.

With the advent of digital publishing, digital newspapers are being produced, and are increasingly popular while readership of print newspapers is generally in decline. A digital newspaper is a newspaper created digitally (i.e. born digital) and available online via the Internet. Digital newspapers may be accessed as apps on mobile devices. Digital newspapers are often in the form of integrating resources, with new material integrated into the resource and older content being removed; or they may be serial publications.

The natural history of the press is a history of a surviving species. It is one of the most characteristic fruits of enlightenment, due to the extension of the opportunities of education to the masses of the population. The modern newspaper is a product of city life; it is no longer merely an organ of propaganda and opinion, but a form of popular literature. The journal of opinion was largely a business man's newspaper. The so-called independent press added to its public the so-called artisan class. The yellow press was created mainly to capture immigrants, and women. It was this increase of circulation that made the newspaper-formerly a subsidized organ of the parties-an independent business enterprise, an envelope and carrier for advertising.

The newspaper has a history; but it has, likewise, a natural history. The press, as it exists, is not, as our moralists sometimes seem to assume, the wilful product of any little group of living men. On the contrary, it is the outcome of an historic process in which many individuals participated without foreseeing what the ultimate product of their labors was to be. The newspaper, like the modern city, is not wholly a rational product. No one sought to make it just what it is. In spite of all the efforts of individual men and generations of men to control it and to make it something after their own heart, it has continued to grow and change in its own incalculable ways.

The type of newspaper that exists is the type that has survived under the conditions of modern life. The men who may be said to have made the modern newspaper—James Gordon Bennett, Charles A. Dana, Joseph Pulitzer, and William Randolph Hearst—are the men who discovered the kind of paper that men and women would read and had the courage to publish it. The natural history of the press is the history of this surviving species. It is an account of the conditions under which the existing newspaper has grown up and taken form. A newspaper is not merely printed. It is circulated and read. Otherwise it is not a newspaper. The struggle for existence, in the case of the newspaper, has been a struggle for circulation. The newspaper that is not read ceases to be an influence in the community. The power of the press may be roughly measured by the number of people who read it. The growth of great cities has enormously increased the size of the reading public. Reading which was a luxury in the country has become a necessity in the city. In the urban environment literacy is almost as much a necessity as speech itself. That is one reason there are so many foreign-language newspapers.

Evolution of newspaper. As we approach the end of the twentieth century, two powerful forces have emerged to change the mass communication model. The first is the use of computers as a means of processing, analyzing, and disseminating information. The second is the constantly accelerating capacity of that technology to enhance communication so it is almost unbounded by time and space. Because older communication technology required a huge investment of capital, a one-to-many model dominated, with those owning the broadcasting equipment or newspaper presses disseminating information to the masses. Current technology, specifically the digital transmission of text, audio, and video, has altered the traditional one-to-many communication model; instead, audiences are becoming producers as well as

consumers of information, and a new many-to-many communication model has emerged. Today anyone with a modem, personal computer, and a telephone line can become a publisher, as we now know the term. But it is a mistake to eliminate totally the old model in favor of the new. By juxtaposing the best of the new model -- computerized access, delivery, and packaging of information -- with the best of the old model -- insightful reporting in a well written story -- a better hybrid model that combines the best of both is created.

As people all over the world begin to produce and then share information within McLuhan's prophetic "global village," they naturally depend less and less on the information that flows from more traditional sources. Howard Rheingold, who describes himself as a high-tech social historian, explained this phenomenon at a Canadian writers conference:

"A tremendous power shift is underway, and despite the obscure or phony terminology used to describe it, this power shift is about people, and our ability to connect with each other in new ways much more than it is about fiber optic cable and multimedia appliances. The revolution triggered by the printing press was about literacy, and what literate populations are capable of doing (eg: governing themselves), long after it had anything to do with the mechanics of moveable type. The technology enabled the power shift, but the power shift was created by the people who used the tool to educate themselves.

As Rheingold aptly states, this new communication revolution is shifting power to the people. This power shift seriously threatens the dominance of traditional mass media forms, specifically television, radio stations, magazines, and newspapers, which were built from the one-to-many communication model. Newspapers, which currently print and then deliver information on paper, are particularly vulnerable. Astute editors and publishers have recognized the threat digital delivery poses to the nation's estimable "Fourth Estate," and in an effort to reach today's "wired" audiences, they are creating new, electronic publications. But so far, creating a successful, futuristic model has eluded most publishers. Many outlets have opted simply to put the content of the "paper" product online, only to discover that the online world has its own, often mysterious ethos. Writing in *Wired Magazine*, Jon Katz, a media critic and

former executive producer of the *CBS Evening News*, succinctly summarizes the dilemma facing newspaper publishers:

"So far, at least, online papers don't work commercially or conceptually. With few exceptions, they seem to be just what they are, expensive hedges against on rushing technology with little rationale of their own. They take away what's best about reading a paper and don't offer what's best about being online. That's the point of a newspaper. . .to filter the worthwhile information, then print it. . . . The newspaper needs to reinvent itself. . . . The object is not to replace, or put into a different format, but to gain a toehold in cyberspace and even absorb some of its values."

Reference.Reference concern to the relations between preceding and the following text information. In addition, reference is related by semantic relationship. According to Halliday and Hasan(1976) reference is the relation between an element of the text which is interpreted by the participants. Reference is potentially cohesive because the thing that serves as the source of the interpretation may itself be an element of text.Halliday and Hasan have special term for situational reference. Halliday and Hasan refer to the exophoric reference. Then, they distinguish with endophoric as genera name for reference within the text (Camposn, 2018). The term 'reference' denotes a relation between objects in which one object designates by linking to another object. As Cutting (2008, p. 7) says, the act of using language to refer to entities in the context is known as reference or an act in which a speaker uses linguistic forms to enable the hearer to identify something is reference. This type of cohesion can be understood as the cohesion through reference. In this regard, Cook (1989, p. 16) opines that reference items are those cohesive devices meaning can only be discovered by referring to other words or elements within the discourse.

Look at this example:

They pressed round him in ragged fashion to take their money. Andy, Dave, Phil, Stephen, Bob.

In this example, the pronominal 'they' refers to Andy, Dave, Phil, Stephen, Bob. Here, 'they' shows the referential cohesion and without understanding it, the interpretation might not be possible. In the similar vein, McCarthy (2010, p.35)

mentions that the reference expressions refer to the certain part of the discourse. In English, reference items include: pronouns (he, she, it, him, etc.), demonstratives (this, that, these, those), the definite article 'the' and the items like 'such a'.

Reference is the most common device of grammatical cohesion. It links linguistic elements of a discourse with the help of reference expressions. Referential cohesion can further be divided either as exophoric or endophoric and anaphoric or cataphoric as noticed in a text or discourse.

Additionally, Reference can be identified as the situation in which one element cannot be semantically interpreted unless it is referred to another element in the text. Pronouns, articles, demonstratives, and comparatives are used as referring devices to refer to items in linguistic or situational texts. Reference may either be exophoric or endospheric (M.Bloor & T. Bloor, 2004, P.60). Exophoric reference requires the reader to infer the interpreted referent by looking beyond the text in the immediate environment shared by the reader and writer. For example, in the sentence: That is a wonderful idea! To retrieve the meaning of that, the reader must look outside the situation. On the other hand, endospheric reference lies within the text itself. It is classified into two classes: anaphoric and cataphoric. According to Paltridge (2006, P.90) "Anaphoric reference is where a word or phrase refers back to another word or phrase used earlier in the text" In the previous example:

Amy went to the party. She sat with Sara.

She refers back to Amy; therefore, she is an anaphoric reference. Cataphoric reference looks forward to another word or phrase mentioned later in the text. For instance, in the following sentence, he is a cataphoric reference that looks forward to Mike. As soon as he arrived, Mike visited his parents. (Paltridge 2006, P.90) .

Personal reference. Halliday and Hasan (1976, P.76) defines Personal reference as a reference by means a function in the speech situation through the categories of person. The categories of personal reference include three classes of personal pronoun, possessive determiner (adjective pronoun), and possessive pronoun. It can be seen from the table below;

Person	Personal Pronouns	Possessive Adjective	Possessive Pronoun
Speaker	I, Me	My	Mine
Addressee(s) with/without other person(s)	You	Your	Yours
Speaker and other person(s)	We, Us	Our	Ours
Other person; male	He, Him	His	His
Other person; female	She, Her	Her	Hers
Other person; object	They, Them	Their	Theirs
Object passage of text	It	Its	Its

Demonstrative reference. Demonstrative reference is a reference by means of location, on scale of proximity. Demonstrative reference expresses through determiners and adverbs. In grammar, a demonstrative is a determiner or a pronoun that points to a particular noun or to the noun it replaces. There are four demonstratives in English: the "near" demonstratives this and these, and the "far" demonstratives that and those. This and that are singular; these and those are plural. (Kranenburg, 2016, P.16).

Demonstrative reference is made through the use of determiners and adverbs. It is possible by means of location on a scale of proximity, e.g. this, that, these and those. Look at these sentences:

Did you hear Rey talking about Kathmandu? That is the place I was talking about.
(That = Kathmandu)

I have bought the books on pragmatics, discourse and socio linguistics. These books may help us. (These = books on pragmatics, discourse and socio-linguistics)

A demonstrative pronoun distinguishes its antecedent from similar things. (For example, "Let me pick out the books. I want these, not those.") When a demonstrative comes before a noun, it's sometimes called a demonstrative adjective or a demonstrative determiner ("Son, take this bat and hit that ball out of the park").(Nordquist,2019).

Comparative reference. Regarding comparative reference, Jamalzadeh (2017:15) claims that it is expressed by using adverbs and adjectives in order to compare and contrast items within a text. Halliday&Hasan (1976, 37) suggest that comparative reference contributes to textual cohesion by setting up a relation of contrast expressed by such adjectives as same, identical, equal, adjective in a comparative degree, and adverbs such as identically, likewise, so, such, etc.

It is expressed through adjectives and adverbs. Such reference serves to compare items within a text. Here is an example:

A: Do you like this item?

B: Yes, but I'd prefer another one. (i. e. 'another one' is used as a comparative reference)

General and particular comparison in English is illustrated in Tables 6. This table represents re-arranged version of the corresponding tables in Halliday and Hasan (1976, P.76).

General Comparison			Particular Comparison	
Identity	Similarity	Difference	Numerative(quantity)	Epithet(quality)
Some, equal, identical ; identically	Such, similar, so, similarly, likewise	Other, different, else; differently, otherwise	More, fewer, less,further,additional, so-, as-, equally- + quantifier(e.g., so many)	Comparative adjectives & adverbs (e.g., better); so-, as-, more-, equally- + Comparative adj. & adverbs(e.g., equally good)

By general comparison is meant comparison that is simply in terms of likeness and unlikeness without considering any particular property: two things may be the same, similar or different, general comparison is expressed by a certain class of adjectives and adverbs. Furthermore, The adjectives functions in the nominal group either as Deictic or as Epithet and the adverbs functions in the clause as Adjunct. In

this comparison likeness or unlikeness is referential property Jamalzadeh (2017, P. 17). Particular comparison means comparison that is in respect of (quantity or quality). It is also expressed by means of adjectives or adverbs, not of a special class, but ordinary adjectives function within the nominal group, but not as Deictic, they function either as Numerative or as Epithet. The adverb function in either of two ways: either as adjunct in the clause or as Sub- modifier, in which case they simply occur within an Epithet or a Numerative or within an Adjunct. This type of comparison expresses the comparability between things Halliday and Hasan (1976, P.76).

Exophoricreference.Exophora is reference to something extralinguistic, i.e. not in the same text, and contrasts with endophora. Exophora can be deictic, in which special words or grammatical markings are used to make reference to something in the context of the utterance or speaker. For example, pronouns are often exophoric, with words such as "this", "that", "here", "there", as in that chair over there is John's said while indicating the direction of the chair referred to. Given "Did the gardener water those plants?", it is quite possible that "those" refers back to the preceding text, to some earlier mention of those particular plants in the discussion. (Lestari2019, P.31).

But it is also possible that it refers to the environment in which the dialogue is taking place—to the "context of situation", as it is called—where the plants in question are present and can be pointed to if necessary. The interpretation would be "those plants there, in front of us". This kind of reference is called exophora, since it takes us outside the text altogether. Exophoric reference is not cohesive, since it does not bind the two elements together into a text Halliday and Hasan, (1976, P. 85)

Exophoric reference is generally known as the link between referring expressions such as: he, she, it, etc. with the entity outside the text. In other words, it is the reference outside/beyond the discourse. Let's observe these examples:

She was using one of those trimmers to get rid of the weeds. (i. e. 'those trimmers' is not explicit here) The government are to blame for unemployment. (i.e. Which government? It is not clear)

Look at that. ('that' is not explicit)

In these examples, the references are not related to the texts. It is, therefore, not explicit. The meaning of exophoric reference can be understood only in relation to the situation and this sort of reference can be visible by the use of words such as: now/then, here/there, this/that, etc. These words refer to the temporal, locational and personal characteristics of situations. McCarthy (ibid) says that outward or exophoric reference often directs us to the immediate context, as when someone says 'leave it on the table please' about a parcel you have for them. Sometimes, the referent is not in the immediate context but is assumed by the user to be part of a shared world, either in terms of knowledge or experience.

Endophoric reference. Endophora refers to the phenomenon of expressions that derive their reference from something within the surrounding text (endophors) Khofidoh (2017,P.31). For example, in the sentences "I saw Sally yesterday. She was lying on the beach", "she" is an endophoric expression because it refers to something mentioned elsewhere in the text, i.e. "Sally".By contrast, "She was lying on the beach," if it appeared by itself, contains an exophoric expression; "she" refers to something that is not present in the surrounding text, so there is not enough information given within the text to independently determine to whom "she" refers.

Additionally, It can refer to someone the speaker assumes his audience has prior knowledge of, or it can refer to a person he is showing to his listeners. Without further information, in other words, there is no way of knowing the exact meaning of an exophoric term. Endophora can be broken into three subcategories: cataphora, anaphora Khofidoh (2017, P.31).

Endophoric reference is the reference within the discourse. That is, it is the reference inside the discourse. If a personal pronoun, demonstrative or comparative refers to an item whose more detailed or precise is given within the text, then it is called endophoric reference. description These references can be noticed in the body of a text in the forms of cohesive ties within the text

.Example:

Right, we have got forty nine out of fifty there, haven't we?

The question 'haven't we' refers to some part of discourse. Further, endophoric references are found in the forms of anaphoric and cataphoric uses of pronominals in a text.

Cataphoric reference. Quirk, Greenbaum, Leech, and Svartvik (1985, P.65) are in agreement that cataphoric reference is the opposite of anaphoric reference. Cataphora refers forward to a person, thing, or situation in discourse of use. Therefore, the referent displays itself later on in a text after a cataphoric reference. Cataphoric reference is just the opposite of anaphoric reference which links forward to a referent in the text that follows. Therefore, it is called forward reference. In this regard, Cutting (2008, p.9) writes, the referring expression that link forward to a referent is cataphora. To understand better, see these examples:

That was my final dream. Thank god! I won the medal.

It is going down quickly, the sun.

Thousands of people are victim of it. AIDS is an incurable disease.

In these examples, 'that' (in the first sentence) refer to medal; 'it' (in second sentence) refers to the sun and 'it' (in final In these examples, 'that' (in first sentence) refers to medal; sentence) refers to the AIDS. All of these words are the examples of cataphoric references since they link with the part of the text which is following.

McCarthy (2010, p. 42) states that cataphoric reference is the reverse of anaphoric reference and is relatively straightforward. Therefore, the reference items can function in both anaphoric and cataphoric ways.

A cataphoric reference unit refers to another unit that is introduced later on in the text/speech. To understand the unit referred to by a cataphoric reference you would need to look ahead in the text/speech, For example,

“When she arrived, Sara was surprised to find her door open.”

Here, the pronoun 'she' is a cataphoric reference because it refers to the noun 'Sara' that is introduced later on in the text.

Anaphoric reference. Huang (2000, P. 7) says: "a rhetorical device involving the repetition of a word or group of words in successive clauses." Anaphora is a term in which the personal pronouns such as 'he', 'she', 'they', or 'it' or possessive pronouns

such as 'mine', 'hers', 'theirs', or 'its', are used to refer back to something or somebody that is already mentioned in the same sentence or in the preceding sentence.

The referring expression that links back to something that exists in the preceding portion of discourse is anaphoric reference. To be exact, it is a backward reference. So, the elements that make backward reference are called anaphora. Look at these examples:

It rained day and night for two weeks. It spoilt all our crops.

Look at the sun. It is going down the sky.

The 2nd group is not competent than the first. They are going to lose the match.

In the first example, the pronominal 'it' links the events of two weeks ago. In the second, 'it' refers to the sun. Likewise, in the third, 'they' refers to the second group. All these are the examples of anaphora.

An anaphoric reference unit, on the other hand, refers to another unit that was introduced earlier on in the text/speech. To understand the unit referred to by an anaphoric reference you would need to look back in the text/speech.

For example,

“Sara is so stressed out about her assignment; she is talking with her friends”

Here, the pronoun 'she' is an anaphoric reference because it refers to the noun 'Sara' that was introduced earlier on in the text Huang (2000, P. 7).

After that, the anaphoric reference must match with the referent in gender and number. Quirk, Greenbaum, Leech and Svartvik (1985, P.75) have divided anaphora into two kinds 'indirect and direct'. We find that direct anaphoric interpretation is received in a situation where the same referent has already happened in the discourse of use while a reference in indirect anaphora is a part of the hearer's knowledge indirectly (Lobeck 1995, P.56).

To conclude, referential cohesion is one of the most common devices of grammatical cohesion. Cohesion through reference denotes the use of pronominal, demonstratives

and definite article in order to link/refer the sentences either inside or outside or backward or forward the text.

Review of Empirical Literature

This sub section is an attempt to review the related studies, articles and reports. The literature review is an important part of analysis that contributes a valuable role during the process of research work. The most important role of a review is to generate and collect the ideas from the previous studies in the related literature as evidence to the present study. The reviews of some of the literatures are as follows:

Chapagain (2005) studied the distinctive features of language used in advertisement descriptively. In this thesis "The Language in English Newspaper Advertisements", he analyzed the language of advertisement in terms of characteristic features specially related to vocabulary, structure, and functions and compared the characteristic features of language used in them. But the study included every kind of advertisement named trade advertisement, retail advertisement, classified advertisement, display advertisement and business directories published in different newspapers.

Subedi (2011) carried a research on "Critical Analysis of Spokes Discourse: A Case of the Film Twilight". The main objective of this research was to analyze the spoken discourse critically in terms of power relations and linguistic fees. He utilized only the secondary sources of data. The data for the study were collected judgmentally, analyzed systematically by selecting English film Twilight. The spoken interaction then was recorded in the computer and transcribed in on the graphic form with the additional contextual features as far as possible. So, it was totally based on the subjective judgments of the researchers. He came to the conclusion that power relations are inevitable features of any functional use of language, interaction is mostly controlled by the elders, the spoken discourse is mostly informal, colloquial, interactional and even impolite; and metaphorical expressions are pertinent in spoken discourse.

Dunprakhon (2012) conducted a research on 'Critical Discourse Analysis of News Headlines: A Case of Youth Crime in Thailand. The main objectives of her research were to discover the discursive features of youth crime news headlines and to investigate the ideologies reflected in the headlines of the news practitioners who produce the news headlines. She has collected 97 headlines from three leading newspapers in Thailand (i.e. Thairath, Daily News and Khom Chad Luck) from Jan 1" to Dec, 31" 2012. She used Fairclough's CDA framework and van Dijk's SCA framework to analyze the data. She found that the newspapers give due priority to the some violent crimes committed by the youths and the use of "guns' is represented repeatedly but the violence caused by guns is relatively low. The newspapers used words like "to shoot' which give violent meaning and represent youths negatively. However, the fact is that most of the Thai youths commit crimes due to the drugs and the personal dissatisfaction. So, the newspapers impose their discursive practices even against the reality.

Ghale (2012) carried out a study on "Language used in News- Bulletins of Kantipur television in terms of structural classification of sentence. She collected 15 regular news bulletins from different news reports broadcast from Kantipur television. Observation was the main tool for the data collection. Finally, she found that complex sentences were highly used i.e. 63% whereas simple and compound sentences were used in proximity i.e. 19% and 18% respectively.

Abdurahman (2013) carried out a research entitled "Grammatical Cohesion Analysis Of Students' Thesis Writing". This research aimed to find out types of grammatical cohesive devices students mostly used in their thesis writing and how these devices create cohesive discourse. In this study, researcher applied descriptive case study as form of research. The objects of this research were research background part of 10 theses writing written by students of English Education Study Program. The data revealed that students could produce various types of grammatical devices. The majority of devices used by the students were referential cohesive devices and conjunctive cohesive devices with 82.25% and 17.12% respectively. Other types - substitution and ellipsis contributed only 0.24% and 0.39%, respectively. In many cases, students tended to misuse singular pronoun while referencing plural objects or vice versa. From the total 1273 grammatical cohesive devices used, students somehow

adequately master using grammatical devices by only using inappropriately 74 (5.81 %) of them.

Bhatta (2013) conducted a survey research on Critical Analysis of Classroom Discourse. The objective of this study was to analyze the classroom discourse critically in terms of interactional control, politeness and power. He used both primary and secondary sources of data. Teachers and students teaching and learning at secondary level of three private schools of Kathmandu district were the primary sources of data. He recorded nine conversations, three from each school. He used observation and audio recording as the research tools. He found that teacher dominance had reflected in turn taking systems, in exchanging structures, topic control and overall structures of discourse. The use of direct and commanding type of language in the teacher's speech was observed whereas hedging, more politeness and less directness were observed the student's speech. The teacher dominance was found desirable. Power was shown by teacher's overlaps, questions, commands and the ways they addressed their students.

Zhang (2014) conducted a research on "A Critical Discourse Analysis of Political News Reports. The main objective of this research was to analyze the linguistic features, news production and social context of American media critically in relation to Iraq war. He collected the news stories from 'New York Times' which is a leading newspaper in America. The news reports were analyzed by Fairclough's three dimension framework and Halliday's functional grammar. He found that language and ideology is mutually determined. The language in news discourse is by no means neutral. American media try to justify the importance of war in Iraq and boost the morale of American army. The reports help to criticize Saddam, win support and finally justify the war.

Biebuyck (2014) conducted a CDA research on 'Crime News Reports in Belgian and British Quality Newspapers a Critical Discourse Analysis of Racial Bi The objectives of his research were so to coves the ideological stances of newspapers as a form of racism and to analyze the vocabulary. grammar and textual structures of newspaper reports related to ethnic cases For the purpose of data collection, he selected two British newspapers (e. be Telegraph and The Guardian) and two Belgian newspapers (ie. De Morgen and De Standaard). The corpus for this study includes 48

news reports published between 1 Dec, 2013 and 31 Mar, 2014. The news reports were analyzed by Fairclough's three dimension framework. He found that the British Newspapers take ideological stances while reporting a crime committed by out-group offenders. The British and Belgian conservative newspapers create polarization through the use of pronouns or sub-ordinate clauses. The Guardian tends to focus on racial bias, with particular focus on Muslim offenders.

Hassina&Zineb (2017) carried out a research entitled “Anaphoric and Cataphoric References in Writing Business Cover Letter”. This study aims at showing the importance of raising learners' awareness as to the use of anaphoric and cataphoric references in writing business letter mainly the cover one. We hypothesize that the appropriate use of anaphoric and cataphoric references, as cohesive devices, enhance learners' writing of business letter. To conduct our research, we adopted a quasi-experimental method which consisted of a pre-test, a training session and a post test. We applied our study on twenty (20) learners of the Career Center at KasdiMerbah University Ouargla. The study showed that if learners use anaphoric and cataphoric references appropriately this will affect positively in writing cover letter cohesively.

Rofiq'ah (2019) carried out a research entitled “Grammatical Cohesion Analysis Of Students' Essay Writing”. This research aimed to explain the kinds of grammatical cohesion found in the students essay writing and to explain the dominant types of grammatical cohesion most used in students' essay writing. This study applied descriptive qualitative method. The object of the study were 33 essays which written by the fourth semester students English Education Department of UIN Walisongo in academic year of 2017/2018. The data were collected through documentation and interview. Furthermore, the data were analyzed content analysis proposed by John W Cresswell. The technique of analysis involved organizing, reading, coding, making interpretation, and counting the grammatical cohesion devices. The writer used M.A.K Halliday and Hasan's theory to analyze the types of grammatical cohesion which are reference, substitution, ellipsis and conjunction. To find the results the researcher used tabulation in counting the data, then the results showed that there are 703 times or 61.35 % of reference, 27 times or 2.35% of substitution, 12 times or 1.15 % of ellipsis, 403 times or 35.15 % of conjunction, and the total 1.145 times of grammatical cohesion devices from 33 of the students' essay

writing. It can be concluded that the dominant types used in students' essays writing are reference and conjunction. Meanwhile, Substitution and ellipsis are lower than reference and conjunction in the students' essay writing. It can also be mentioned that students only focus on two types of grammatical cohesion. It can make their essays not cohesive, because in their essay only 2 dominant types of cohesion are used.

Implications of the Review for the Study

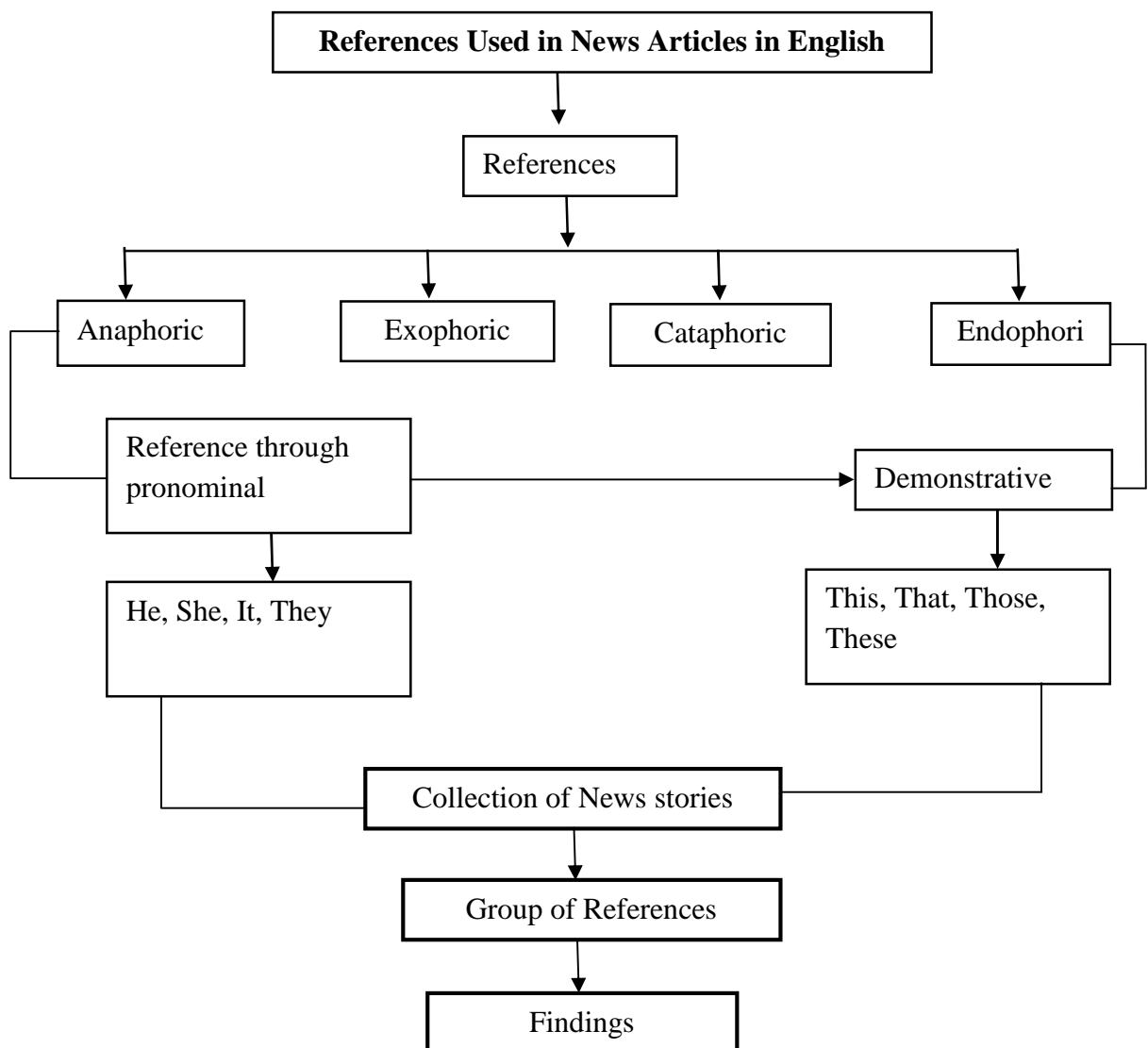
Above reviewed literature (theoretical and empirical) is similar and helpful for the proposed study. Literature reviews make researches clear about the topic their study. Reviewing literature can be time consuming and frustrating, but it is also rewarding, useful and interesting. Literature review is one of the essential tasks to conduct any research. According to Kumar (2009, p. 30), "The literature review is an integral part of entire research process and makes a valuable contribution to almost every operational steps". To carry out this research, I also reviewed theoretical as well as empirical literature related to any research topic. The literature reviews includes books, articles, reports, different websites, dissertations and thesis.

After reviewing their works, I have got lots of ideas regarding the use of language in newspaper from the study of chaplain (2005), specially I got the data collection ideas from subedi (2011). After reviewing , I got ideas on the process of survey research design from the study of Ghale (2012). Similarly I got ideas of grammatical cohesion from Abdurahman (2013). Hassina and Zined (2017) helped me to differentiate the cataphoric and anaphoric references. I got the information of tabulation and percentile from Rofiq'ag (2019) From my study the review of literature helped me in a number of news. First it helped me to develop theoretical concept which brought clarity to my research problem. Secondly, it helped me to improve my research methodology. The literature supported me to collect data and analyze it appropriately based on the objectives of my study.

In addition, these literatures also helped me to sketch conceptual framework and to make checklist selected appropriate research design, data collection, and analysis procedures, sampling strategy. However, my study is different from other in the sense that it gives more focus on references used in the Kathmandu post.

Conceptual Framework

Conceptual framework refers to overall sketch of a project. Here, it means a researcher's map that is usually developed at the beginning of the study and evolves till the end. It represents the understanding of the theories by the researcher and his/her conceptualization of the relationship between different variables which mainly deals with who and what aspects that should be studied. The conceptual framework of the study is presented diagrammatically as follows:



Chapter III

Research Methodology

This chapter appends the design of the study, sample and sampling strategy, sources of data, data collection tools and techniques, data collection procedures, data analysis and interpretation procedures and ethical consideration.

Design of the Study

A research design is an overall plan and a framework which guides the researcher to complete the study. There is no single blueprint for planning research. Research design is governed by the notion of fitness for purpose. The purposes of the research determine the methodology and design of the research (Cohen, Manion & Morrison, 2007). For example, if the purpose of the research is to map the field, or to make generalizable comments then a survey approach might be applicable.

To quote Kerlinger (1986, as cited in Kumar, 2009), a research design is a plan, structure or strategy of research which a researcher will do from writing the hypothesis and their operational implications to the final analysis of data.

Survey research design has been used to conduct this study. Survey research design is a type of research design, which is used to obtain a snapshot of conditions, attitudes and event at a single point of time. Putting it in another way, we can use such design to get factual information regarding various subjects. It is non-manipulative study in the sense that the researcher does not control the situation. Therefore, it is also known as natural study. According to Cohen et al. (2007), survey gathers data at a particular point in time with the intention of describing the nature of existing conditions, or identifying students against which existing conditions can be compared or determining the relationship that exists between specific event.

Survey is the most commonly used method of investigation in Educational research which can be carried out either by a group of researchers or by an individual. The finding of survey is generalizable and applicable to the whole group. In this research, data were collected only at a single point of time aiming to obtain overview of political news stories. So, I Had used survey research design to collect

representative data from three newspapers. Here, analytical and descriptive method was employed to carry out my research. Data were collected using observation checklist as a research tool and described and interpreted using descriptive approach.

Sample and Sampling Strategy

The sample size of this study was included all the references used in ten different news articles taken from Kathmandu Post issued from judgmental sampling strategy was used to select the reference used in the news article.

Research Tools

Observation checklist was as the main tool for data collection. Sports news stories were collected from The Kathmandu Post.

Sources of Data

Both the primary and secondary sources of data were used for this study. This study was primarily based on primary source of data. The first hand data was collected from the selected news stories from The Kathmandu Post. I consulted with various, articles, journals and research documents as secondary sources of data.

Data Collection Procedures

I had followed the following step wise procedures in order to collect authentic data:

-) At first, I went through the different issues of Kathmandu Post and selected ten different issues.
-) Then, I collected different news stories from different issues of The Kathmandu Post
-) I read, observed and underline the references.
-) Then, I checked the type of reference used.
-) I examined the anaphoric and cataphoric references.
-) Finally presented them in a separate tables and interpret them accordingly.

Data Analysis and Interpretation Procedures

The collected data was analyzed and interpreted to come conclusion as per my purpose. Generally, the data from quantitative research analyzed using description and language. The systematically, all data will be taken from The Kathmandu Post to bring out the research on its cohesion such as references, anaphoric and cataphoric. Simple statistical tools like frequency and percentile used.

Ethical Considerations

Ethical is the main phenomenon to be considered while doing a research so that the informant's identity may not be collapse. To avoid the risk of plagiarism, I have given proper credit to the authors of books, journal, articles and researcher work.

Researcher should be sensitive in the context of privacy of participant, inform consent & manipulation of data by him/herself. We know that, sensitivity is the main principle in ethical consideration of any kind of research activity. During my study, I will cutout news stories from The Kathmandu Post. I do not manipulate the collected data but it will analyzed quantitatively. I do not harm any stake holders of newspaper and editor. I do proper citation and reference to the authors of the books, articles, journals and research works to avoid plagiarism. All the collected was used for academic purpose only.

Chapter IV

Analysis and Interpretation of Result

This chapter incorporates analysis and interpretation of the data that includes the different types of references like cataphoric, anaphoric, and define articles in the context of English news stories of The Kathmandu Post. In this process, first of all, the information was tabulated and then analyzed and interpreted under different headings. Some statistical tools like comparative table and frequency chart were also used to facilitate the analysis and interpretation of the data. This analysis and interpretation of the data is based on the objectives and news bulletins incorporated to achieve the objective. The detailed analysis and interpretation of the data and summary of the finding are presented below:

References Used in News Articles of The Kathmandu Post

Different references used in the language of The Kathmandu. They are like cataphoric references, anaphoric references, personal pronoun, and demonstrative references being used in the sports news.

References through personal pronoun. Personal reference as a reference by means a function in the speech situation through the categories of person. The categories of personal reference include three classes of personal pronoun, possessive determiner (adjective pronoun), and possessive pronoun.. Personal pronouns shows the relationship with person in the sentences of the text. Personal references Used in news articles of The Kathmandu Post.

Subjective pronoun used in the sports news of The Kathmandu Post. While referring in the text personal pronoun can be used in sentences. When replacing the noun in the text we use the subjective pronoun which reduce the repetition of the noun in text. Subjective Pronoun used as a references in the text.

Table 1**SubjectivePronoun Used in the Sports News of The Kathmandu Post**

Personal References	No. of frequency	Percentage
I	10	4.41 %
You	12	5.29 %
He	43	18.94 %
She	40	17.62 %
They	47	20.70 %
We	15	6.61 %
It	50	22.03 %
Total	227	100 %

Table 1 shows that personal reference It had the highest frequency. It consisted 22.03 %. Similarly They was found in the second position of total personal references. It occupied 20.70 % of total reference. Likewisehe occupied 18.21% of total sentences which is the third place. She occupied 17.62% of total personal references. We occupied 6.61 % of total references. You occupied 5.29 %. You occupied 5.81% of total personal references. And I occupied 4.41% of total personal references.

Some Example of personal references of The Kathmandu Post are Given below;

- i. Kouyet put Senegal ahead just three minute after arriving when he pounced on a miscued defensive header.
- ii. Uruguay's world cup destiny remains in their own hands. They had a dream start in Montevideo as cavani's first minute cross was half cleared edge of the box.
- iii. Though many players are young, they are ready for the game.
- iv. Peng said she couldn't envisage a return to level professional tennis.

It has found that, this media uses personal reference 'He' used more than other personal references in the news sports news articles.

From table 1, it can be said that personal references 'It (22.03 %)' is mostly used in comparison to other personal references in the sports new stories of The

Kathmandu Post. These personal references are used as the subject in the sentences to make the reader clear and understand.

Objective pronoun used in the sports news of The Kathmandu Post. An objective Pronoun is a word that replaces a noun in a sentences. The objective pronoun refer the noun in the sentences. It is a personal pronoun that is used typically as a grammatical object, the direct or indirect object of a verb. So, the writer of the sports news also use the objective pronoun as a references in the news stories.

Table 2

Objective Pronoun Used in the Sports News of The Kathmandu Post

Personal References	No. of Frequency	Percentage
Me	12	9.02 %
Us	15	11.28 %
His	26	19.55 %
Him	10	7.52 %
Her	22	16.54 %
Them	18	13.53 %
Their	30	22.56 %
Total	133	100 %

Table two shows that personal references used as the object in the sentences in the news article in the the Kathmandu Post.Their was used most places in the sentences which occupied 22.56 % in the news articles. Likewise the second place was covered by his with 17.24%. Her occupied 16.54 % of total references in the news stories.They occupied 13.53 % of total references. Similarly, meoccupied 9.03 % of total personal references. Him occupied 7.52% which was the last position. Some of example are given below;

- i. Confident hosts Nepal take on Mauritius in their second international friendly football match on Tuesday after registering a narrow 1-0 victory over the African side in the first match at Dharshart stadium on Saturday.
- ii. Mauritius coach Francois said that his side played better comparison to the last match.

- iii. Photos of Peng during the interview showed her wearing a red tracksuit top with “China” in Chinese character on the Front.
- iv. Egypt haven’t won the African Cup since their record extending seventh title in 2010

From Table2, it can be stated that his was used mostly in the sentences rather than other objective pronouns in the sentences of news article in the Kathmandu Post.

Reference through demonstrative.Demonstrative references states or shows the means of location, on scale of proximity .Demonstrative references expresses through the determiners and adverb. Basically singular and plural demonstrative references were being used in the sports news of The Kathmandu Post.

Table 3

Demonstrative References Used in the Sports News of The Kathmandu Post

Demonstrative Reference	No. of frequency	Percentage
This	40	38.83 %
That	45	43.69 %
These	10	9.71 %
Those	8	7.77 %
Total	103	100 %

From Table 3 shows that that had the highest frequency of occurrence. It consisted of 43.69 %. Similarly, this was found in the second position of total demonstrative references. It occupied 38.83 of total demonstrative reference. These was in the third position which occupied 9.71 % of total references. And Those occupied 7.77 % of the total references in sports news articles

- i. Nothing to see here, move on. That was the message that Chinese tennis player pengShuai delivered Monday in a controlled interview in Beijing.
- ii. We know firsthand that this is a huge job.
- iii. If you agree we will try to make contact with him and will forward these comments which has been made.

- iv. This cup of nations has already seen the confederations of Americans football announces last minutes venue changes without offering an official explanations, while the third place playoff was belatedly brought forward a day to Saturday.
- v. Joseaug was a comfortable winner of the women's 7.5 pulse-7.5 kilo meter skiathloan, taking what is likely to be the first of many cross country skiing middle for Norway at these game.

References through Anaphoric and Cataphoric in new texts. Anaphoric reference occurs when a word or phrase refers to something mentioned earlier in the discourse. The referring the expression that link back to something that exists in the preceding portion of discourse is anaphoric reference. Likewise Cataphoric reference occurs when a word or phrase refers to something mentioned later in the discourse. A cataphoric references unit to another unit that is introduced later on in the text/speech. Different anaphoric and Cataphoric references were used in the sports news of The Kathmandu Post.

Table 4

Cataphoric and Anaphoric References Used in the Sports News of The Kathmandu Post

References	Frequency	Percentage
Cataphoric reference	70	15.1 %
Anaphoric Reference	393	84.9 %
Total	463	100 %

From the table 4 showed that anaphoric references had the highest frequency of occurrence. It consisted of 85.9 % of Total references used in the sports news of The Kathmandu Post. Similarly, cataphoric references occupied 10.4% of total references used in the sports news.

Some of example of Cataphoric references and anaphoric references sports news of The Kathmandu Post are given below;

- i. It is a great achievement for the both getting through to the Final.

- ii. We know firsthand that this is a huge job.
- iii. Both the team are on a similar level in the FIFA ranking. Hosts Nepal are 169th in the ranking, just there notches about Mauritius, who rank 172nd .
- iv. Salah made his international debut the following years.
- v. They were troubled season hit another bump Unite in the road when United were dumped out of the FA Cup.

It has found that, this media uses anaphoric references more than cataphoric references. Cataphoric could be easy to understand for the English native speaker but very complex for the non-native, the Nepalese . So anaphoric references is

Chapter V

Findings, Conclusion and Recommendation

The main purpose of the present study was to find out the references used in the news stories of The Kathmandu Post in terms of classification of references, cataphoric, anaphoric, personal reference, demonstrative references and define article. The researcher collected ten regular English newspaper of The Kathmandu Post Feb.1st t to Feb.10th of 2022.on the basis of forty sports news stories from ten days newspaper . The References has been analyzed and interpreted under the different heading and sub heading with statistical tools like average and percentage in the table.

Findings

After the analysis and interpretation of the data obtained from the informants of the study; I come to come off with the following summary of finding of this research:

- i. Forty three sports news stories were taken for the study which were analyzed on the basis of references such as cataphoric and anaphoric references from The Kathmandu Post.
- ii. While analyzing the references it was found that anphoric references more highly used i.e. 85.9 % whereas cataphoric references were used 14.1 % used respectively.
- iii. It was found that pronominal references it was used more frequently i.e. 22.03 % than other pronominal references in sports news stories.
- iv. It was also found that demonstrative reference ‘that’ was used more frequently i.e.43.69 % than other demonstrative references in sports news stories of The Kathmandu Post.
- v. Similarly, the study showed that definite the was used as anaphoric references frequently i.e. 71.4% in comparison to cataphoric references in the sports news stories of The Kathmandu Post.
- vi. Regarding the use of references, it found that the writer of the news stories use the anaphoric references rather than cataphoric ways.

In the comparison to other media, it has been found that sports news were highly broadcast through print media i.e. The Kathmandu Post which is published daily from Kathmandu, Biratnagar, Bhartpur and Nepalgunj City. Similarly, it also found that the anaphoric references were highly used in the news texts rather than cataphoric references

Conclusion

News refers to new information about something that has happened recently. It also indicates reports of recent events that appear in newspapers or on the FM Radio or on the Television. News bulletins are also called 'news story'; 'broadcast media' news. Media is a fourth pillar of the state is capable of diffusing the tensions and intolerance present in various sector of the society. It is social responsibility of The Kathmandu Post in Nepal to bring social harmony and stability in the country by playing its positive role in the past as well as present. So, news is the information about the current events and significant issues. The language used in the media always should be accurate, clear, unambiguous because public prefer to read the newspaper for getting information about the contemporary events and issues. Regarding the sports news of The Kathmandu Post also should be clear, accurate, understandable, and unambiguous. Most of the English as a foreign language learners prefer to read English newspaper for their language development. Therefore news should not be difficult for the language learners. News is crucial to the public as well as EFL learners to foster language development. By the help of English newspaper, EFL learners get the ideas about the references, types of references, cataphoric, anaphoric, pronominal references and demonstrative references of the Kathmandu Post.

The findings of the study revealed that, Anaphoric References were used more than Cataphoric References. The research was descriptive in nature which was based on only the secondary sources of data. The data for the study were judgmentally collected from the sports news. The total sample of the study considered the ten pieces of different sports news. The required data were collected using observation as the data collection tool. The descriptive statistical tools used to analyze the data.

Implications

Based on the major findings and conclusion of the research some policy related and practice related recommendations have been made these are as follows;

Policy related

- i. The policy maker should focus on the inclusion of topics of mass media in the school level curriculum.
- ii. Language planning agencies should make policies for promoting journalistic language.
- iii. The curriculum designer should make the provision of references like anaphoric and cataphoric references such as pronominal, demonstrative, definite articles in the syllabus of University level.
- iv. The government of Nepal should utilize the study to formulate the policies in the field of mass communication to make people conscious about genre of the news.
- v. The Ministry for Information and Communication Technology should flourish the area of Communication through the findings of researches.

Practice level. The main recommendations of the study at this level are as follows:

- i. The study shows that different types of references such as anaphoric and cataphoric references are used in news. Therefore, teachers should teach pronominal references, demonstrative references and definite article references to the students to make them able to grasp the news.
- ii. Similarly, teachers should teach grammatical cohesion, references like pronominal, demonstrative references to the students to make them able to know the nature of news too.
- iii. The teachers should make the students familiar with the different features of language used in the news.
- iv. The teacher should make the students familiar with the references used in the news.

- v. The differences in various aspects of references in the news should be highly taken into account while preparing or developing teaching materials for teaching mass media.

Further research. This is not a complete research on the language of newspaper. It researched a very small segment of the language: hence it cannot be a conclusive study. There are various areas that need to be researched in order to complete the study on the language of newspaper through the references.

Similar types of other research can be carried out on the communication functions of news. The researchers can use this research to widen the horizon of their knowledge. They can also link this research with other similar researches. Since this research was based only on the anaphoric and catphoric references. Other specific studies can be carried out in more detail to find out propaganda techniques used in news.

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Appendix I

Observation Checklists for Use of References in Sports News of The Kathmandu Post

Reference Through pronominal references	Example
	Confident hosts Nepal take on Mauritius in their second international friendly football match on Tuesday after registering a narrow 1-0 victory over the African side in the first match at Dharshart stadium on Saturday.
	Mauritius coach Francois said that his side played better comparison to the last match
	Kouyet put Senegal ahead just three minute after arriving when he pounced on a miscued defensive header.
	Peng said she couldn't envisage a return to level professional tennis
Reference Through demonstrative references	Example
	Nothing to see here, move on. That was the message that Chinese tennis player pengShuai delivered Monday in a controlled interview in Beijing.
	We know firsthand that this is a huge job.
	That was our dream that we won the Final Match.
References through Anaphoric and Cataphoric references	Example
	It is a great achievement for the both getting through to the Final.
	We know firsthand that this is a huge job.
	Both the team are on a similar level in the FIFA ranking. Hosts Nepal are 169 th in the

	ranking, just there notches about Mauritius, who rank 172 nd .
	Salah made his international debut the following years.
	They were troubled season hit another bump Unite in the road when United were dumped out of the FA Cup
	“I have a no idea what number of Grand Slams I will have” Nadal said at a press Conference.

Appendix II

Sample of Sports Article

07 / TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 01, 2022

THE KATHMANDU POST

SPORTS | MEDLEY

BRIEFING

Eriksen signs for Brentford

LONDON: Christian Eriksen has completed a remarkable return to the Premier League, signing for Brentford just seven months after suffering a cardiac arrest while playing for Denmark at last year's European Championship. The 29-year-old playmaker, who has been fined with a pacemaker, has signed a contract with Thomas Frank's side until the end of the season. The ex-Tottenham player left Inter Milan last month by mutual consent. The pacemaker meant he was not allowed to play in Italian football, but other leagues do not have the same rules.

Lampard named Everton boss

LONDON: Everton have appointed former Chelsea boss Frank Lampard as their manager on a two-and-a-half-year contract, the Premier League club said on Monday. Everton sacked Rafa Benitez this month after a 3-1 defeat at Norwich City left the Merseyside club six points above the relegation zone. Lampard, 41, started his coaching career at second-tier Derby County in 2013 and after one season in charge he became manager of Chelsea, the club he helped to win several major trophies in 13 years as a player. The former England midfielder led the London side to a fourth-place league finish and the FA Cup final in his first season but was dismissed in January last year after a poor run of results.

Nepal eyeing second win against Mauritius

The hosts are expected to give debuts to a few new faces while the African side will be eager to sign off with a victory.

SPORTS DESK OF HANOI, VIET

Conditions look like Nepal take on Mauritius in their second international friendly football match on Tuesday after registering a narrow 1-0 victory over the African side in the first match at Dusharath Stadium on Saturday.

Nepal, who have announced two separate squads for the two-match friendly series but with 12 common players in both the teams, want to give continuity to their winning run over the visitors. Apart from that, Nepal is also expected to give debuts to some fresh faces in the match.

Unlike Nepal, the visiting East African side, who played their first international game after a two and a half years hiatus owing to Covid-19 outbreak, would be willing to go loose on the back of winning results.

Mauritius played in the absence of their four key players in their first friendly after testing positive for coronavirus upon their arrival in Nepal, but they will all be included in the second game, according to coach Tony Francois. "They were important players of our squad and they will be ready to play in the second match," Francois had said after the first game on Saturday.

While Nepal are hosting Mauritius to prepare the team for the third round of the AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers set to take place in June, the visiting



Coach Abdullah Almatari is likely to retain key members including Kiran Limbu, Arjun Bista and Bimal Gharti Magar for the second friendly.

side has similar ambition of preparing the team for the Qualifiers of African Cup of Nations due to take place later this year.

"The game against the physically superior opponents was important for us to prepare for Asian Cup Qualifiers," Nepal's coach Abdullah Almatari said after the first match who also gave debuts to midfielders Sudip Gurung and Akash Bhatta Magar.

The fixture is also expected to give

debuts to fresh players in the next match with the view to have more selection options for the Qualifiers. However, he is likely to retain key senior members including captain and goals Kiran Limbu, winger Arjun Bista and striker Bimal Gharti Magar, the lone scorer in the last game who marked comeback to the national fold nearly after three years due to injuries and suspension for disciplinary reasons.

Both the teams are on a similar

level in the FIFA rankings. Hosts Nepal are 189th in the rankings, just three notches above Mauritius, who rank 172nd.

The football governing body A.F. Nepal Football Association (ANFA) will allow spectators only one third of the Dusharath Stadium's capacity due to the pandemic with strict adherence to the government's health protocols. The match will kick off at 16:45 NST and will be telecast live on Kantipur Television.

Canada close in on World Cup berth

ADVICE FRANCE-PRISE HANOI, VIET

Canada took a giant step towards their first World Cup qualification in 34 years on Sunday after scoring an upset 2-0 victory over arch-rivals the United States in CONCACAF qualifiers.

A Cyle Larin goal after just seven minutes and an injury time effort from Shea Satterthwaite secured all three points for the Canadians at a frigid Tim Hortons Field in Hamilton to extend the home side's lead at the top of the CONCACAF standings.

The setback Canadians now have 22 points with four fixtures remaining, pulling four points clear of the US who are second with 18 points.

Canada have emerged as the surprise package from the Central America, North America and the Caribbean qualifying region, and are now firmly on course for only their second trip to the World Cup after reaching the Mexico finals in 1986.

Mexico are third in the standings level with the US on 18 points after drawing 0-0 with Costa Rica in Mexico City on Sunday.

The top three sides in the eight-team round-robin table qualify automatically for this year's finals in Qatar.

In another game, Panama beat Jamaica 3-2 at home. Panama are fourth in the standings with 17 points, one behind the US and Mexico.

Holder takes four-in-four, leads West Indies to T20 series win

ASSOCIATED PRESS HOUSTON, TEX

Pacer Jason Holder took four wickets in four balls to blow up the last over of England's run chase as West Indies won the fifth Twenty20 game by 17 runs on Sunday to capture the series 3-2.

West Indies won the toss, chose to bat and scored 179-4 at the Nottingham Oval. In reply, England were all out for 162 with one ball left after entering the final over at 140-4 and needing 20 runs to win.

In that last over, Holder first claimed the wicket of Chris Jordan (7) caught on the fence, immediately followed by the key dismissal of Sam Billings (1) runs off 20 balls) before golden ducks for Avish Ranjiv and Saqib Mahmood.

Holder joined an exclusive club when Mahmood's inside edge nicked leg stump. Lasith Malinga, Rashid Khan and Curtis Campher are the only other bowlers in men's cricket to take four-in-four

in a T20 international.

Holder did not get a chance to go for five wickets in five balls with no England batters left. The all-rounder finished with 5-27 from 2.5 overs.

James Vince top-scored for England with 36 off 41 but was one of left-arm spinner Abasi Bekele's five wickets after being out. Hossain took 4-31 from four overs.

Earlier, West Indies had been frustrated by England's spinners but captain Kieron Pollard (41 not out 35) and Rossman Powell (35 not out 17) shared an undefeated fifth-wicket stand of 74 in just over five overs to set the hosts a reasonable target to set England.

The pair added a whopping 66 in the final 24 balls.

Rashid (3-17) kept England's England men's leading T20 wicket-taker with 81 career wickets. Liam Livingstone collected identical figures as the pair and fellow spinner Noor Ali yielded just 34 from their 10 overs, with England's spinners repeatedly targeted by West Indies.

Salah's Egypt, Mane's Senegal into semi-finals

The Pharaohs defeat Morocco 2-1 while the Teranga Lions see off Equatorial Guinea 3-1 in the African Cup of Nations.



Mohamed Salah scored the equaliser and created the winner in Egypt's victory.

ASSOCIATED PRESS WOMBE, MALI

The biggest stars of African football are on course to meet in their continent's biggest game.

Mohamed Salah's Egypt and Sadio Mane's Senegal reached the African Cup of Nations semi-finals on Sunday. One more win for both teams will see the Liverpool pair meet in the final.

Salah scored the equaliser and created the winner to inspire Egypt's comeback to beat Morocco 2-1 after extra time.

Mane set up Panama Diekhane for Senegal's opener in a 3-1 win over Equatorial Guinea later at the same Ahmed Ahijou Stadium in Wombé. Substitutes Cheikhou Kouyate and Ibrahima Sarr finished off Equatorial Guinea, who had drawn level through Jurekic Bayla a few minutes after taking a penalty awarded and then taken away through a VAR check.

Egypt progressed to a semi-final game against tournament hosts Cameroon, a repeat of the 2017 final

that Cameroon won. That game on Thursday will also be a clash between the two most successful sides in African Cup history with 11 titles between them.

Senegal play Burkina Faso in the first semi-final on Wednesday, when Mane's team will be aiming to make a second straight final. Senegal hopes to finally win one this year to get rid of their unwanted label as the best team to never win an African title.

Egypt fell behind to an early penalty won by Achraf Hakimi and conserved by Sofiane Boufal in the seventh minute. Egypt captain Salah reacted quickly to knock in a rebound to make it 1-1 in the third and sent in a perfect low cross for Tarekhat to tap in near the end of the first half of extra time.

Egypt haven't won the African Cup since their record-extending seventh title in 2010. Salah made his debut for the national team the year after that triumph and is still searching for a first major title with his country.

So is Liverpool teammate Mane, although Senegal's trail has been

much longer. Mane's pass opened up Equatorial Guinea's defence for centre forward Diekhane to score in the 10th. Senegal appeared in control but got a first warning when captain Kalidou Koulibaly had a penalty awarded against him in the 20th minute. It was cancelled by referee Victor Gomez after he saw on VAR that Koulibaly's right hand was down by his side when the ball struck it.

Equatorial Guinea did get their goal seven minutes later but the introduction of Kouyate and Sarr as substitute paid off 142 time for Senegal coach Aliou Cisse.

Kouyate put Senegal ahead just three minutes after arriving when he pointed on a crossed defensive header. Sarr finished after brilliant work down the left wing by Salis Ciss.

Senegal will play Burkina Faso back at the Ahmed Ahijou Stadium. Egypt and Cameroon will meet at the tournament's main Ombre Stadium across town in Wombé after it was chosen to stage games again following last week's deadly stadium crash.

BRIEFING

PSG out of French Cup

PARIS: Goalkeeper Marcin Bulka made two saves in the shootout as Nice eliminated holders Paris St Germain 6-5 on penalties after a goalless draw in their last 16 French Cup tie on Monday. Bulka is on loan at Nice from PSG and stopped efforts from Leonardo Paredes and teenage Kavi Simons in the shootout to end PSG's dominance in the cup, which they had won in six of the past seven seasons. Nice will now host Olympique de Marseille in the quarter-finals, after the draw was conducted earlier on Monday. In next week's quarter-final, the two fourth division giant killers Bergerac and Versailles were drawn against each other while the other two ties see a top-flight team host Ligue 2 opposition. Nantes are home to Bastia and Monaco take on Amiens.

Del Petro to make comeback

BUEENOS AIRES: Injury-plagued Juan Martin Del Petro will play his first tournament since 2018 next week after being handed a wild card for the Argentina Open, organisers of the ATP 250 tournament said on Monday. The 2009 US Open champion, who has undergone four right knee operations after last competing at Queen's Club in London in 2019, will also play in the Rio Open ATP 500 claycourt tournament later in February. "It's going to be so special to come back to the tour in Buenos Aires and also play Rio. I worked a lot and made every effort to be with you during the coming weeks," former world number three Del Petro, 33, who is from Argentina, said in a statement. The Argentina Open begins in February 7 and will be followed by the Rio Open starting on February 14.

Shrestha's goal secures second victory for Nepal

The home side chalk up a 1-0 win over visiting Mauritius, three days after defeating the African team with the same scoreline in the first friendly match.

SPORTS BRIEF

Both Nepal registered a second 1-0 victory in a row over visiting Mauritius in the last game of the two-match international friendly although the game wrapped up in an unfriendly manner at the Dasharath Stadium in Tripureswar on Tuesday.

Four red cards - two to Mauritius players, two to members of Nepal squad including goalkeeping coach Rishabh Malla - and 11 yellow cards were among the highlights of the game which saw Rajal Shrestha's only goal turn out to be the decider. Also, thanks to a penalty save by Nepal captain Kiran Limbu promptly after taking the lead.

Apart from on-field trouble, the floodlights at the stadium dimmed in the late second half forcing the play to stop for about 10 minutes.

The first match played on Saturday had also ended in 1-0.

"Players fight sometimes in the friendly and it is normal," Nepal's Everest coach Abdullah Almatrain said at the post-match conference. "They play for 90 minutes and in the end it was good. It is also an experience."

Mauritius coach Tony Francois said that he would take responsibility for the red cards of his players. "Though it was a friendly match, everyone wants to win. My players lack experience and they get provoked. They would gain experience from the incident in the next match," said Francois.

Coming into the second match, Nepal retained five players from the last squad including goals and captain Limbu, defenders Devendra Tamang and Dinesh Bajracharya, and midfielders like Ajay, Rishi and Tej



Nepal's Rajal Shrestha celebrates after scoring a goal against Mauritius during the second friendly at the Dasharath Stadium on Tuesday.

Tamang in the starting line. Defender Nabin Gurung, marked down in the national squad appearing in the starting XI.

Both Nepal and Mauritius came up with improved show in comparison to their last outing. Nepal, backed by roaring home supporters, took an early 10th minute lead through Shrestha who netted his third international goal. Midfielder Shrestha, who played in both roles as midfielder in the first half and defender in the later stage, gave a finishing touch just a few feet from the goalpost. He found Anshik Lama's

strike from the edge of the area in a crowded zone before Pujan Upadeti set for him in a corner delivery by Anshik Nabin Gurung.

Mauritius wasted a golden scoring opportunity two minutes later after skipper Andy Sophie was denied a penalty by goalkeeper Chandrajog. The shot keeper dived to his left to stop a low ball strike by Sophie after the visiting side were awarded a penalty for a foul on Limbu. Head coach Dinesh Bajracharya inside the dugout zone.

Nepal made two attempts in the late first half when Tamang's

35-yard strike sailed inches wide after he quickly applied a scotcher to the open net. A few minutes later forward Dinesh Gurung headed above the bar.

Nepal coach Almatrain brought in winger Deep and forward Rimal Gharti Magar at the start of the second half replacing Nabin Gurung and Anshik Lama. Nepal then shifted their 4-3-3 formation to 3-4-3 in the second half.

Gharti Magar failed to meet second half substitute Susan Malla's cross inside the area despite an attempt for a strong header. Deep also volleyed

while from close range. Mauritius' Fernando Jackson threatened in the end second half when he unleashed a powerful scotcher from the edge before goalie Limbu thwarted the ball.

The later stage of the match turned tense with Pujan Upadeti, coach Rajal Malla and Mauritius midfielder Adrien Bobar all given marching orders in the 80th minute by referee Nishirika Maharaj. Upadeti saw a second yellow after he trampled the ball at the feet of Bobar before the whole team got involved in a scuffle. Coach Malla, who ran through the pitch, was also shown red. The play was halted for four minutes. In the 80th Mauritius defender Rimamal Pochchand was also sent off after seeing a second yellow.

The floodlights of the stadium got dim before eight minutes of the stoppage time was shown. The play resumed nearly after 10 minutes.

Mauritius coach Francois said that his side played better in comparison to the last match. "Today we played better than in the last game. Though we got scoring opportunities, we failed to utilise them," he said, repeating that they were playing after a long time and Nepal were a strong side.

Nepal's coach Almatrain, who had announced two separate squads for the friendlies last comprising 22 overseas players, said that the outcome would be very much helpful in splitting Nepal's FIFA rankings and for Asian Cup Qualifiers.

"The players showed that they can fight against the physically superior opponents. The main thing is they played a fearless game today and it is more important than the results," he said, adding that the match outcome was better than his expectations.

Van de Beek and Alli look to rebuild, Aubameyang's nightmare set to end

The Netherlands and the England midfielders, who were fallen out of favour at their previous clubs, joined Everton while Barcelona are set to sign the Gabon striker on free transfer.

SPORTS

Midfielder duo Declan Rice and Dele Alli got chances to rebuild their faltering careers at Everton after making moves on Monday's transfer deadline day, while Barcelona are set to rescue Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang from his Arsenal nightmare.

The English Premier League saw the most action on the final day of transfer activity until the end of Europe's top five leagues' domestic season, with Tottenham Hotspur and Everton the busiest clubs.

Alli's permanent switch to Goodison Park from Spurs represents a fresh start for the 28-year-old, who has fallen from grace having been a key fig-

ure for club and country only a few years ago. The midfielder made only seven Premier League starts last season under former coach Jose Mourinho and has been unable to win his first-team spot back on a regular basis under new boss Antonio Conte.

Alli last made an international appearance in June 2018.

With Alli headed for Everton, that made room at Tottenham for two new arrivals in the shape of midfield pairing Dejan Kulusevski and Rodrigo Bentancor from Juventus. There was further clearing of the decks from Conte on Monday with another player who has faltered to decide for Spurs - club record signing Tanguy Ndombasi - joining former club Olympique Lyonnais on loan. The

writing was on the wall for Ndombasi when he was loaned off by his own supporters during last month's FA Cup match against Middlesbrough.

It is new beginnings aplenty at Everton, with new boss Frank Lampard confirmed as the club's new manager on Monday. He added two fresh faces to his squad before the deadline passed.

Alli is joined by another midfielder desperate to show what he can do in Netherlands international Van de Beek. To say his dream move to Manchester United did not work out would be an understatement, as Van de Beek's first season with the club was spent looking on from the sidelines under previous coach Ole Gunnar Solskjaer. The arrival of

interim manager Ralf Rangnick has only made things worse, with the Dutchman yet to start a Premier League match this term, missing just 96 minutes all season in the English top flight. The 26-year-old will hope that under a coach who scored Premier League goals for fun from midfield as a player, he can learn a few things in training to turn his fortunes around, returning to United in the summer a different proposition altogether.

Aubameyang's impending departure from Arsenal marks the end of a precipitous fall after four years in North London. His decision to renew his contract in 2019 delighted Arsenal fans, having seen the striker score 22 league goals in both the 2018-

19 and 2019-20 campaigns. However, he could only muster 18 league strikes the following term as Arsenal finished eighth, and things have deteriorated further for Aubameyang this season. The 32-year-old striker has not played for Arsenal since December after manager Mikel Arteta stripped him of the captaincy due to a "disciplinary breach".

The free transfer to Barcelona has been speeded up on Monday according to widely-reported, as Aubameyang gets set to jump out the door after scoring just four Premier League goals in 2021-22. Arsenal were so desperate to get him off their books they will let him leave for nothing, 10 months before his contract reaches its

Barcelona have done plenty of rebuilding in the transfer window, with England's Premier League where they chase to do most of their shopping. Adams Travers arrived from Wolverhampton Wanderers on loan while Manchester City snail Pierre-Thomas Heron to the Catalan club.

The feel-good story of deadline day was the return of Danish midfielder Christian Eriksen to football, as he signed for Premier League club Brentford, seven months after he suffered a cardiac arrest during a European Championship match.

The most expensive signing of the window remained new Juventus striker Dusan Vlahovic, who will Fiorentina for a deal worth up to 60 million euros (60 million), plus other changes.

BRIEFING

Sri Lanka's Lakmal to retire

LONDON: Sri Lanka fast bowler Saranga Lakmal will retire from all forms of international cricket following a tour of India in February-March. Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) said on Wednesday Lakmal made his international debut in 2008 and went on to play 68 Tests, 89 one-day internationals and 11 Twenty20 internationals, taking 285 wickets and scoring 11,796 runs. The 34-year-old bowler captained Sri Lanka's Test side in 2008 in the absence of Dinesh Chandimal due to a ball-tampering ban, winning his first match as skipper against West Indies at the Kensington Oval. "We take this opportunity to wish Lakmal the very best for his future endeavors, and look forward to seeing him perform for the country during the Sri Lanka Tour of India. If the selectors consider him," SLC CEO Ashley De Silva said.

Greenwood released on bail

MANCHESTER: Manchester United forward Mason Greenwood has been released on bail pending further investigations, police said on Wednesday after the 20-year-old player was arrested on suspicion of rape and assault of a woman. Greenwood was on Tuesday further arrested on suspicion of sexual assault and making threats to kill. "A 26-year-old man arrested on Sunday 26 January 2022 on suspicion of the rape and assault of a woman has been released on bail pending further investigations," Greater Manchester Police said in a statement on Wednesday. United have suspended Greenwood, saying he would not return to training or play for the Premier League club until further notice.

Pellistri-inspired Uruguay boost World Cup hopes

A thumping 4-1 win over Venezuela propels the twice former World Cup winners into the final four of South American automatic qualification berths.



Lucas Suarez (right) set up the second goal and won the penalty converted by Luis Suarez.

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

Young winger Facundo Pellistri stole the show on only his second appearance for Uruguay as the twice former World Cup winners boosted their hopes of reaching Qatar 2022 with a 4-1 win over Venezuela on Tuesday. Chile also gave themselves a lifeline as Alexis Sanchez scored a brace in a 2-2 win at Bolivia in South American World Cup qualifying.

Ecuador inched closer to qualification with a 1-1 draw in Peru, who dropped into the inter-continental play-off spot.

Colombia's hopes all but died after failing to score for a seventh consecutive match in a 1-0 defeat to Argentina.

Goals from Rodrigo Bentancur, Gonzalo de Armentano, Edinson Cavani and a Luis Suarez penalty saw Uruguay romp to a second successive victory under new coach Diego Alonso that propelled them into the final four automatic qualification berths in the single South American group in which Brazil and Argentina have already booked their tickets to Qatar.

But it was Manchester United youngster Pellistri, who has spent the last year on loan at Spanish Alaves, who shone brightest. His run set up the second goal and his trickery won the penalty converted by Suarez.

With two qualifiers left at home in Peru and away to Chile, Uruguay's World Cup destiny remains in their own hands.

They had a dressy start in Montevideo as Cavani's first minute cross was half closed to the edge of the box, where two Tottenham

signing Bentancur hit a sweet half volley that clipped a heel and slidded past Walker Pizarro in the Venezuela goal.

Uruguay were dominant and doubled their lead as 20 minutes after Pellistri showed great trickery to beat three players on the right and cut the ball back for De Armentano to slot from close range.

Cavani, who had a second half goal ruled out for offside, all but sealed the victory in first half stoppage time with an opportunistic overhead kick from six yards out as Uruguay's players were lining up to finish off their weary opponents.

The win left them three points behind Uruguay and two off Peru with two to play.

Former Barcelona and Manchester United star Sanchez, 33, rolled back the years by opening the scoring on 10 minutes with a mistimed overwing free kick before setting the killer third goal five minutes from time.

Here, Kawsarha equalised for Bolivia in the first half before Marcelo Narvez gave Chile the lead again after the break. Marcelo Moreno rounded off the scoring late on but defeat leaves Bolivia all but mathematically eliminated.

"It's still not over, we've got two important games left," said Sanchez. "It was vital to win today in La Paz against tough opponents."

Uruguay sit in fourth with 23 points, three behind Ecuador and one ahead of Peru.

Pellistri continued to torment Venezuela down the right in the second half and won a penalty off Gabriel Fernandez. Facundo saved Suarez's spot kick but referee Bruno Ariza ordered it to be retaken due to over-encroachment and the Atletico Madrid striker made no mistake to restore the second time.

Josel Martinez netted a consolation on 65 minutes after a defensive mistake from Jose Gimenez.

In La Paz, veteran Sanchez scored a brilliant brace to rebound Chile's hopes of reaching Qatar after Thursday's 2-1 defeat at home to Argentina.

South Korea qualify for World Cup

The Koreans defeat Syria 2-0 to move 11 points clear of third-placed UAE in group A.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

South Korea qualified for a 20th consecutive World Cup after beating Syria 2-0 in Dubai on Tuesday.

Second-half goals from Kim Jun-soo and Kiwon Chang gave the Koreans a comfortable victory over the bottom team in Asia group A qualifying.

South Korea, the 10th nation to qualify for the 2022 tournament, moved 11 points clear of third-placed United Arab Emirates with two games remaining.

Iran, who have already qualified, beat the UAE 1-0 to remain atop group A.

Iran last week became the first team from Asia to qualify for Qatar

when they beat Iraq 1-0.

The top two teams from both groups automatically qualify. The third-place teams advance to play-offs.

In group B, a first-half goal from Takumi Minamino set Japan on the way to beating Saudi Arabia 2-0 at Safdian Stadium and keeping the hosts on course for a seventh successive World Cup appearance.

Minamino's goal from close range after 31 minutes was created by Junya Ito.

The Belgian-based winger then added the second soon after the restart with a fierce start from the edge of the area to seal a first defeat for the Saudis in the group.

Saudi Arabia, who would have qualified for a sixth World Cup with a victory, still lead the group with 18

points, one more than Japan.

Australia allowed a late goal and settled for a 2-2 draw with Oman in Muscat. Australia stay third in group B though move onto 15 points.

The Sevens took an early lead through James Mackenzie's penalty but Abdullah Fomayeq equalised for the hosts soon after the restart.

While Aaron Mooy restored Australia's lead with 15 minutes remaining, Fomayeq scored Oman a point with a spot kick after 60 minutes.

Last-placed Vietnam, who had previously lost all of their seven games in group B, defeated China 3-1 in Hanoi.

The defeat ended China's chances of qualifying for the World Cup for only the second time.



South Korea, who join Iran in confirming their place at November's finals, have appeared at every World Cup since Mexico in 1986.

BRIEFING

Rayo Vallecano, Valencia into Copa del Rey semi-finals

MADRID: Rayo Vallecano reached the semi-finals of the Copa del Rey for the first time in 40 years on Wednesday after they beat Malvera 1-0 at a packed Valencia. Oscar Trijeto's penalty just before half-time was enough to seal victory for Rayo, who will now attempt to make their first ever final in the competition. They will be joined in the last four by Valencia, who defeated Cadiz 2-1, Rayo Bero leading in a late winner at Mestalla. Rayo's winner came in the 44th minute after Alvarez Garcia headed Franco Basso with a sharp turn in the box and topped over the sliding Malvera defender. Trijeto guided the penalty confidently into the corner. Valencia scraped past Cadiz thanks to Duro's header 11 minutes from time. Cadiz had headed when new signing Lucas Perez scored a penalty to cancel out Gonzalo Guedes' opener but Duro ensured Valencia avoided an upset.

Alex left out of Barcelona squad for Europa knockout

BARCELONA: Dani Alex was left out of Barcelona's squad for the Europa League knockout stage as coach Xavi Hernandez decided to include new signings Ferran Torres, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Adama Traore instead. The club announced on Wednesday, Xavi was forced to leave out one of Barca's four new signings because UEFA's regulations allow only three players to be added to a squad after the group stage is complete. Barcelona will face Napoli in the second of 11 over two legs in February. With striker Ansu Fati struggling with injuries, Xavi has decided to prioritise his forward options, while he has never available in Alex's right-back position.

Covid scare in India camp

NEW DELHI: Four Indian players, including senior batsman Shikhar Dhawan, have tested positive for coronavirus ahead of the home series against the West Indies. The country's cricket board said Wednesday. Dhawan, Shreyas Iyer, Shreyas Iyer and Nandipati Saiji, an under-19 player, returned positive tests along with three support staff members with the first of the three one-day matches starting Sunday. Bateman Mayank Agarwal has been added to the ODI squad. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said in a statement. The players and staff who have tested positive will remain in isolation. The Indian team, led by new white-ball captain Rohit Sharma, assembled in Ahmedabad on Monday for the three ODI and three Twenty20 matches. The ODIs will be played at the world's biggest stadium in Ahmedabad while Kohli's Eden Gardens will host the T20 matches.

Mane leads Senegal into African Cup of Nations final

The Liverpool forward sets up the second goal and scores the third in a 3-1 win over Burkina Faso that sends the Teranga Lions into second straight final.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sadio Mane set up one goal and scored the last one himself as Senegal beat Burkina Faso 3-1 Wednesday to reach their second successive African Cup of Nations final.

Now, Senegal hope to finally win a title.

Mane scored on a breakaway in the 87th minute to seal the win at Akanda Akidjo Stadium in Ouagadougou after Senegal went 2-0 up and then saw Burkina Faso pull a goal back, with eight minutes to go.

The Senegal-Burkina Faso semi-burst into life at the end of the game, with all four goals coming in the last 20 minutes.

Defender Abdou Diallo pounced at a corner to give Senegal the lead in the 74th after fellow centre back Kalidou Koulibaly sent the ball toward goal with an overhead kick. Bamba Dieng made it 2-0 in the 76th when Mane cleverly robbed a Burkina Faso defender of possession on the byline and put a cross in a place for Dieng, who only just got the touch ahead of teammate Idrissa Gueye.

Blaise Traore briefly gave Burkina Faso hope when he forced a cross in with his knee in the stand. But Mane stepped up a chance on a counter-attack as he spotted clear of the Burkina

defense and chipped the ball over goalkeeper Ferdi Ouedraogo.

Senegal have for years carried the unwanted label of being the best team in Africa to never win the Cup of Nations. They lost the final in 2002 and at the last tournament in 2014.

Mane, coach Aliou Cisse and others from the losing effort three years ago in Egypt now have a chance to put it right straight away.

Burkina Faso starting goalkeeper Herie Koufi was taken off on a stretcher in the first half after racing off his line to punch a ball clear and crashing into Senegal's Chikhoza Kouyate, who then headed with his full weight on top of Koufi.

Mane tested new goalkeeper Ouedraogo with a blistering shot that he managed to beat away.

Senegal were also awarded a penalty late in the first half for handball against Edmond Tapsoba. His presence was seeing referee Ranaivosoa Wesleya of Ethiopia check VAR and then rescind the penalty as well as the yellow card he gave to Tapsoba.

Senegal finally broke through when Diallo reacted quickly to score from close range.

While Senegal have another chance at that elusive title, Burkina Faso have now lost a final and two semi-finals in the last five African Cups.



Sadio Mane's (foreground) Senegal have for years carried the unwanted label of being the best team in Africa to never win the Cup of Nations.

IOC opposes biennial World Cup plans

The plans would put sport in general in danger and in particular football, Bach argues.

NEWS

Members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Thursday voiced their frustration over plans for a biennial football World Cup instead of the current four-year cycle, saying it would have a major negative impact on other sports.

On the first day of the IOC session before the opening of the Beijing Winter Olympics on Friday, IOC members called on Gianni Infantino, the president of world football's governing body and who is also an IOC member, to drop his plans.

Infantino, who has exceeded his trip to China, has said changing the World Cup cycle from four years to two would generate an extra \$4.4 billion in revenues for the world body. FIFA said the additional funds would help reduce the gap in revenues between developed and less developed football markets.

But international sports federations as well as the IOC, which organizes the Olympics—Summer or Winter Games—every two years, have

opposed Infantino's plans. A biennial World Cup would clash with the Summer Olympics while also denting the Games' commercial appeal. Currently the World Cup is held two years apart from the Summer Olympics.

The World Cup is the biggest international single sports event, commanding sponsorship and broadcasting deals far greater than any other international federation's event. A tournament every two years would overshadow all other competitions.

"We would like to discuss together with the FIFA President and IOC member but this is not possible now against the expectation, because he cancelled his visit to Beijing the day before yesterday," IOC chief Thomas Bach told the IOC session.

"We should not discuss now in a wider sense this issue in his absence in respect for our colleague and IOC member. If you agree we will try to make contact with him and will forward those comments which have been made."

Bach was responding to sharp criticism directed at FIFA by several IOC

members, including National Olympic Committees of Africa President Mustapha Berraf.

"The plan for a biennial World Cup would create immeasurable damage and put sport in general in danger and in particular football," Berraf said. "It would simply push away other sports and relegate them to the back benches and that would be absolutely unacceptable. It would also create a rift between women's and men's sport and be a setback to all our efforts to create equity and parity for all sports," he said.

European football governing body UEFA and its South American counterpart CONMEBOL have also strongly opposed the idea.

Nesha Lalovic, an IOC Executive Board member and head of United World Wrestling, said there would be "widespread consequences" and that a consultation with FIFA was necessary. "The unilateral decision by FIFA on such an important matter... will have widespread consequences not only on football, but all sports globally. These consequences must not be underestimated," Lalovic said.

Nadal says 21 Grand Slam titles not enough

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

Rafael Nadal said on Wednesday he is still not satisfied with his 21 Grand Slam titles following his historic triumph at the Australian Open.

Nadal clinched his latest major win in Melbourne after pulling off an incredible comeback from two sets down to defeat Russia's Daniil Medvedev in the final.

The 35-year-old's momentous victory took him to the top of the all-time men's list and one clear of the 30 Grand Slam titles won by Roger Federer who is injured, and Novak Djokovic, who was controversially departed from Australia before the tournament began.

The Spaniard could now make it 22 at the French Open in June, where he has been crowned champion a record 13 times already.

"I have no idea what number of Grand Slams I will have," Nadal said at a press conference at his academy in Mallorca.

"Not long ago I would have signed

for just being able to play tennis again.

"I want to be the one with the most majors out of the three of us, I would love that, but I'm not obsessed, absolutely not. Whatever comes is welcome and I don't think 21 is enough to be honest. But you never know what will happen in the future," Nadal said.

Nadal's comeback against Medvedev had a wider context too, given he had doubts about even returning to professional tennis when struggling with a knee injury last year.

The injury restricted Nadal to playing only one tournament in the last seven months of 2021. Nadal said he will decide if he is ready to play at Acapulco in Mexico later this month, but he is keen to compete at Indian Wells in March.

"It still hurts when I play," Nadal said. "But I'm playing at a higher level now than I was more than four weeks ago and this has given me a huge boost of confidence to move forward."

"On a personal level it's been an unforgettable experience," Nadal added.

SPORTS

Beijing Winter Games set to open as Peng Shuai allegations back in spotlight

IOC President Bach will meet the Chinese tennis star at the Olympics, which open at the Bird's Nest stadium today.

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
BEIJING (3)

Thomas Bach will meet Peng Shuai at the Beijing Winter Olympics to assess her "physical integrity and her mental state", the IOC chief said on Thursday as controversy dogged the Games right up to the eve of the opening ceremony.

Bach said the International Olympic Committee would support an inquiry into the tennis star's allegation of sexual assault against a top-ranking Chinese politician—if she could file one.

The lead-up to the Beijing Olympics, which open on Friday with a ceremony at the "Bird's Nest" stadium, have been overshadowed by human rights concerns, the Covid pandemic and even fears about Chinese government snatching of athletes.

Peng, a former Grand Slam champion doubles player, has also been a major talking point after she alleged on Chinese social media in November that former vice-premier Zhang Guoli had forced her into sex during an on-off relationship.

It was the first time that the #MeToo movement had reached China's ruling Communist Party.

The allegation is so widely scrubbed from China's tightly controlled internet and Peng was not heard from for nearly three weeks, only to reappear in public and she later held a video call with Bach. In December she denied ever making the allegation but it remains unclear how free and safe the three-time Olympic medalist is.

Bach did not say exactly when during the Games he will meet her, but said "if she wants to have an inquiry, of course we would also support her in this. But it must be her decision. It's her life, it's her allegation."

"We have had the allegations and we have heard the withdrawal. We will have this personal meeting and there we will continue this conversation and then we will know better also about her physical integrity and her mental state when we can finally meet in person."

China hopes the Olympics will be a soft power triumph but there are other controversies, among them the environmental impact of a Games taking place in one of the driest regions of the country and relying almost entirely on man-made snow.

The United States, Britain, Canada and Australia are among countries staging a diplomatic boycott over human rights, with the help of China's Muslim Uyghur minority of particular concern.

Washington accuses China of perpetrating genocide in the region of Xinjiang. China warned that the US would "pay the price" for its diplomatic boycott.

Athletes of the boycotting nations will still compete.

China and the IOC hope that the success that has dogged the build-up will be relegated to the sidelines once



Beijing Olympics 2022 have been overshadowed by human rights concerns, the Covid-19 pandemic and over fears about Chinese government snatching of athletes.

the action gets under way.

The sport started on Wednesday with curling and there was a clustering of medal fires at the so-called "Ice Cube", the striking venue known as the "Water Cube" when Beijing hosted the 2008 Summer Games, which was seen then as China's sporting colosseum on the world stage.

Women's hockey and freestyle skiing is also under way.

Those Games are taking place in a vast "closed loop" bubble to thwart the coronavirus, with the nearly 3,000 athletes and tens of thousands

of support staff, volunteers and media cut off from Beijing's general population.

China, where the virus emerged in late 2019, has pursued a no-compromise zero-Covid policy nationwide and adopted the same approach to the Games with everyone vaccinated inside the bubble having daily tests and required to wear a mask at all times.

There were 16 positive Covid results among Games-related personnel on Wednesday, the highest daily total so far, bringing the number since January 20 to 207.

Eleven people have been hospital-

India won't send diplomat after Games 'politicised' by China

NEW DELHI/BEIJING: India said on Thursday it would not send its top diplomat in China to the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics, after a Chinese soldier wounded in border clash between the countries carried the symbolic torch.

Among the bores in the Olympic torch relay that began on Wednesday was Qi Fubin, a People's Liberation Army regimental commander who was seriously wounded during a 2020 border clash with Indian troops that killed four Chinese soldiers.

At least 20 Indian soldiers also died in what was the bloodiest clash between the two nations in decades.

"It is indeed regrettable that the Chinese side has chosen to politicize an event like the Olympics," Arunachal Pradesh, a spokesman for India's foreign ministry, told a news conference.

The head of India's embassy in Beijing would not attend the opening or closing ceremonies following the decision, he added.

"For this torch relay, we abided by the principles of a wide selection process according to specific procedures," said Zhao Weidong, spokesman for the organizing committee, on the initiative of the PRC soldier.

"Many of those who participated in the torch relay were normal everyday frontline workers. They all represent exemplary individuals from the normal workforce." (UPI)

ted with the virus but Brian McCloskey, chairman of the medical expert panel for Beijing 2022, said none were seriously ill.

It is easy to forget that some sports is happening.

Elison Gu has captivated China and looks set to be the face of the Games.

The 18-year-old grade-A student, born and raised in California, switched from the United States to represent China and is her favourite in biathlon skiing.

There will also be intense interest in Chloe Kim, the American snowboarder who mailed hearts when she was gold medalist at the Pyeongchang Olympics in 2018.

Japan's Yuzuru Hanyu is looking to make it a hat-trick of figure-skating Olympic titles but faces a stern challenge from his American rival Nathan Chen.

Sloveny are tipped to top the medals table for a second consecutive Winter Olympics.

The Games end on February 20.

Canada close in on World Cup berth

The Canadians, who beat El Salvador 2-0, lead the CONCACAF qualifying standings with 25 points.

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
USAGLES/3/31

Canada moved to the brink of their first World Cup finals appearance in 36 years on Wednesday with a 2-0 win over El Salvador as the United States reignited their qualification campaign with victory against Honduras.

Second-half goals from Althea Hutchinson and Jonathan David gave Canada a deserved victory in San Salvador and left them leading the CONCACAF qualifying standings with 25 points from 11 games.

Although their qualification for Qatar is not mathematically certain, it would require a leak sequence of results for Canada to fail to qualify for their first World Cup since the 1980 finals in Mexico.

The Canadians lead the standings by four points with three games remaining, all to be played next month. A win over Costa Rica in their next game on March 26 would seal Canada's place in Qatar.

Elsewhere on Wednesday, the US cruised to a 3-0 win over Honduras in a game played in sub-zero temperatures in St Paul, Minnesota.

Two Honduras players were substituted at half-time due to the extreme weather conditions of the Allianz Field. Players from both teams took to the field with multiple layers of clothing, with some opting for balaclavas in addition to gloves and thermal jerseys. American referee Orlando Leon also wore a balaclava and gloves throughout.

US coach Gregg Berhalter defended the decision to play in St Paul, where temperatures for the evening kick-off plunged to around 3 degrees

Fahrenheit (-16 Celsius).

"We provided Honduras and their staff and the referees with warm weather gear, we provided them with headgear and trying to make it a safe environment for them to play," Berhalter said.

"When we go down to those countries and it's 50 degrees and it's reasonable humidity and grass are getting dehydrated and cramping up and getting heat exhaustion. That's the nature of our competition."

Berhalter's side, beaten 2-0 by Canada on Sunday, bounced back to win with goals from Weston McKennie, Valeri Zolnerovica and Christian Pulisic. The victory leaves the US with 21 points from 11 games, four ahead of Canada.

With three games remaining, the US look well-positioned to grab one of the three automatic World Cup qualifying berths available for teams from Central America, North America and the Caribbean.

Mexico are in third, level with the US on 21 points, after battling to a scrappy 1-0 win over Panama in Mexico City on Wednesday. Mexico's winner in an away-tackling performance at the Azteca Stadium came via Wolves striker Saul Jimenez from the penalty spot.

The team finishing in fourth place will face a play-off against the winner of the Oceania qualifying tournament.

Elsewhere Wednesday, Costa Rica kept their qualifying hopes alive with a 1-0 away win over Jamaica in Kingston. The victory leaves Costa Rica in fifth with 16 points, just behind Panama (17 points) following their defeat to Mexico.



Canada's Jonathan David celebrates his goal against El Salvador on Wednesday. Unbeaten Canada are within touching distance of their first World Cup appearance since 1985.

SPORTS | MEDLEY

BRIEFING

Real Madrid crash out of Copa

MADRID: A winning last-minute strike by substitute Alex Berenguer handed Athletic Bilbao a shock 1-0 win over Real Madrid, eliminating them from the Copa del Rey in the quarter-finals on Thursday. Athletic, who knocked out Barcelona in the previous round, ended a run of three successive defeats by Real in all competitions over the last two months thanks to Berenguer's last-gasp goal. The home team dominated the game from start and piled on the pressure on Real until they finally broke the deadlock in the 86th minute, with Berenguer firing into the right corner of the net.

UAE's Al Jazira beat Pire

ABU DHABI: Sheik Al Jazira beat AS Pire, an amateur side from Tahiti, 4-1 on Thursday in the opening game of the Club World Cup in Abu Dhabi. Al Jazira struck three times in the first half as Mohammed Bin Kayed Waddan with goals from Sayed Al Ameri, Ahmed Al Hakeem and Milan Kacanovic. Pire pulled one back early in the second half when Mohammed Bahji sliced a cross into his own net, but Alexander Dabig curled in a fourth for Al Jazira just past the hour. Al Jazira will play Asian Champions League winners Al Hilal of Saudi Arabia in the next round, with the winner of first match advancing to face Chelsea in the semi-finals of the seven-team event. Egyptian giants Al Ahly take an CONCACAF Champions League winner Monterrey of Mexico in the second round on Saturday for the right to play Brazil's Copa Libertadores champions Palmeiras in the other last-four tie. **(KARNIKA)**

Salah, Mane set for Cup of Nations final showdown

Liverpool forward-led Egypt overcome hosts Cameroon 3-1 in the penalty shootout following a goalless 120 minutes in the African Cup semi-finals.

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
NOUR EL TEBA

Liverpool teammates Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mane are getting ready to face off against each other in the Africa Cup of Nations final in Cameroon this weekend after Egypt beat the hosts on penalties on Thursday to set up a clash with Senegal.

Egyptian captain Salah didn't need to step up in the semi-final shoot-out as Cameroon failed three times from the spot, allowing the Pharaohs to win 3-1 on penalties after a goalless 120 minutes in Yaounde.

That was after Mane started with a goal and an assist as Senegal overcame Burkina Faso to win 3-1 in the first semi-final a day earlier.

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp could have been forgiven for winking both players had been knocked out of the tournament sooner as they could return to Anfield, but he expressed delight for the attacking duo on Friday.

"It is a great achievement for both getting through to the final," Klopp said in a press conference ahead of his team's FA Cup tie against Cardiff on Sunday. That game will be played just a few hours before the Cup of Nations climax at the Omnisport Stadium.

It will be a second AFCON final appearance for Salah, a member of the Egypt team beaten by Cameroon in the 2017 showpiece in Libreville.

The 28-year-old has already admitted his determination to lift the Cup of Nations for his country having made his international debut in 2011, a year after they won their last continental title.

"This trophy for me would be



Egypt (pictured) and Senegal have also been drawn to play each other in a two-legged World Cup qualifying play-off in March, with only one making it to the finals in Qatar later this year.

completely different. It would be the closest one to my heart," Salah said earlier in the tournament.

World Cup clash to come

Mane has endured similar disappointment at the Cup of Nations, playing in the Senegal team that lost to Algeria in the final in Egypt in 2018.

The Lions of Teranga are Africa's top-ranked national team, but have never won continental champions, in stark contrast to Egypt and their

record seven titles.

Both players have already starred in Cameroon, with Mane netting three times for Senegal and setting up goals in both the quarter-final against Equatorial Guinea and the semi-final.

Salah has scored two goals and converted the decisive penalty in Egypt's shoot-out win over the Ivory Coast in the last 16.

He was shut out of most of the semi-final by the Cameroon defence, but Egypt hope he will lead them to

victory on Sunday.

"Salah is not only the best player in Egypt but a world-class player and his presence is a boost for the other members of the team," said Egypt assistant coach Huss al-Sayed, speaking after coach Carlos Quintero was sent off in the semi-final.

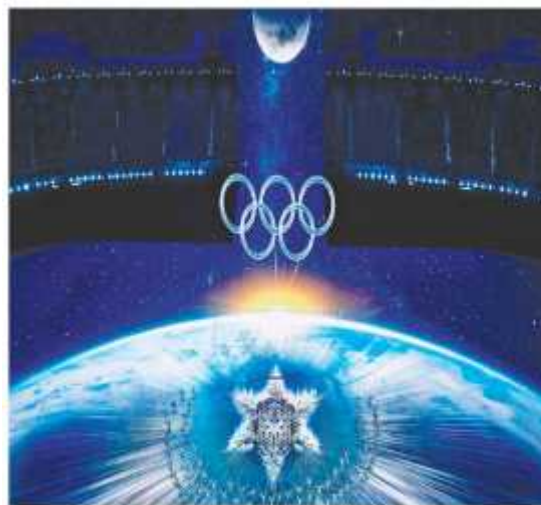
"He is a guide and a leader. His presence is so crucial for us. He came here to win and we hope he will."

It will be the first time the duo have come up against each other at interna-

tional level since they became teammates at Liverpool, but it will not be the last time this year.

Sunday's match is the first of a series of huge clashes to come between Senegal and Egypt as they have also been drawn to play each other in a two-legged World Cup qualifying play-off in March.

Only one will make it to the finals in Qatar later this year, and only one will be crowned African champion in Sunday.



Dancers perform at the National Stadium during the opening ceremony of the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, China on Friday.

Beijing winter Olympics open with a...

Continued from page 1

It was a stark reminder that the games were being held on a backdrop of geopolitical rivalry unseen since the tri-herat Cold War boycotts of the 1980s, when the United States refused to attend the Olympics in Moscow and the Soviet Union stayed away from Los Angeles.

With tensions on both sides of the Eurasian land mass at their most taut for decades, Putin and Xi publicly took each other's sides over a range of grievances, most notably Ukraine, where the West accuses Putin of preparing for war.

As in days just half a year ago, the Covid-19 pandemic imposed severe constraints. With China still sticking to a "zero Covid" policy despite the Omicron variant spreading fast across the globe, organisers decided last month not to sell tickets to Olympic events. A "closed loop" separates competitors and other

personnel from the Chinese public.

But talk of war in Europe and escalating rivalry in Asia meant that Covid was hardly the biggest distraction from sport. The United States and other countries have declined to send dignitaries to Beijing, citing alleged human rights abuses which Beijing denies.

China's role in global sport has also been under a harsh glare in recent months over the case of tennis player Peng Shuai. The women's tennis tour cancelled events in China saying it feared for her safety after she appeared to accuse a senior official of sexual assault. Chinese media have shown Peng making public appearances, including a video phone call last year with International Olympic Committee boss Thomas Bach.

Because of the pandemic, the dignitaries visiting for the Olympics were the first to make official trips to Beijing in more than two years. The

guest of honour was clearly Putin.

The Russian leader—who hosted his own winter Olympics in 2014 just days before writing troops to seize Ukraine's Crimean peninsula—thanked Xi for inviting him, adding: "We know firsthand that this is a huge job."

In a joint Russian-Chinese statement, Beijing backed Russia's long-standing call for NATO to halt its expansion—Moscow's central demand in a dispute with Western countries that say they believe Putin is preparing for war in Ukraine.

Russia, which has deployed more than 100,000 troops to the Ukrainian frontier, denies planning to invade but says it could take unspecified military action unless demands are met, including barring Ukraine from ever joining NATO. Moscow, for its part, said it fully supported Beijing's stance on Taiwan and opposed Taiwanese independence in any form.

Johaug wins first gold medal of Beijing Games

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
BERLIN (AP)

Norwegian cross-country skier Therese Johaug won the first gold medal of the Beijing Olympics on Saturday as sport moved online stage after a troubled build-up dominated by coronavirus and rights concerns.

Johaug was a comfortable winner of the women's 7.5-plus-5.4-kilometre skiathlon, taking what is likely to be the first of many cross-country skiing medals for Norway at these Games. The 35-year-old was almost ruled out of the Olympics before she traveled to China when she was classified as a close Covid contact after two of her Norwegian teammates tested positive. Olympic champion, a 30-year-old Dytch who was chosen by China as one of two athletes to light the cauldron in Friday's opening ceremony, finished third in the skiathlon race. Johaug's inclusion in a ceremony watched by a worldwide television audience placed her at the centre of long-time controversy over rights abuses in China's Xinjiang region.

Campaigners say China has incarcerated at least one million people from mostly Muslim minorities, notably Uyghurs, in "re-education camps" in Xinjiang.

The United States, Britain, Canada and Australia are among countries staging a diplomatic boycott of the Games over China's rights record, and particularly the fate of the Uyghurs.

Asked whether the inclusion of a Dytch competitor in a ceremony featuring several generations of Chinese athletes met the International Olympic Committee's standards of political neutrality, IOC spokesman Mark Adams said she had "every right" to participate.

Shawn White, the American snowboarder who has defied his sport, announced he would arrive after competing in Beijing at his fifth Olympics. White, three times a gold medalist in the halfpipe, said there were "little signs" that his 35-year-old body was holding her, time was up.

The Games are taking place inside a vast "closed loop" bubble designed to thwart Covid-19. The nearly 2,000 athletes and tens of thousands of support staff, volunteers and media have been cut off from Beijing's general population. There have been more than 300 Covid cases in the bubble, among them an unknown number of athletes.

Germany's three-time Olympic Nordic combined champion Eric Frenzel will miss his first event on Wednesday because he tested positive on arrival in Beijing, his team said.

China has pursued a no-mask, zero-Covid policy and adopted the same approach to the Games, with everyone inside the bubble tested daily and required to wear a mask at all times.

Egypt stand in Senegal's path to first Cup of Nations title

The Lions of Teranga face the record seven-time champions Pharaohs in Sunday's final.



Senegal, who lost the title decider to Algeria two and a half years ago, are playing their third final in the Africa Cup of Nations.

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
DACCAR (AP)

Senegal once again stood on the brink of a first Africa Cup of Nations title but they must get the better of record seven-time champions Egypt in Sunday's final in Yaounde which sees Liverpool stars Sadio Mane and Mohamed Salah face off for the trophy.

It has been a difficult tournament for Cameroon, started by the deadly Ombre Stadium crush of January 21 and troubled by organisational chaos and poor attendance, yet it has thrown up a heavyweight final showdown between two African giants.

Cameroon hoped to be there themselves, but the five-time AFCON winners who dreamed of lifting the trophy on home soil were beaten on penalties by the Egyptians in Thursday's semi-final.

As a country Egypt have the experience of seven past Cup of Nations victories, although the most recent was in 2008 when they claimed their third in a row.

Salah made his international debut the following year and is now desperate to win silverware with the Pharaohs having already been in the team that lost the 2017 final to Cameroon and then went out prematurely at hosts in 2019.

Senegal, meanwhile, have the status of Africa's top ranked national team but also the pressure of a nation to finally claim their first Cup of

Nations crown after losing to Algeria in the deciding game two and a half years ago.

"We knew it was not going to be at all easy to get to two straight AFCON finals, but the most important for us now is to go all the way and win it," Mane said after scoring one goal and making another in the 2-1 semi-final defeat of Burkina Faso.

The Lions of Teranga are hoping it will be third time lucky in the final after they also lost the title decider in 2002, going down on penalties to Cameroon. Alvaro Ceze was the captain of that team and then the coach in 2008. Nobody knows better than him what it would mean to Senegal to get the monkey off their back.

His side must take advantage of the extra day's rest afforded them given their semi-final was played 24 hours earlier than that of their opponents, and Senegal have also come through all three knockout ties in 90 minutes.

In stark contrast, Gheza Quereq's Egypt required penalties to beat the Ivory Coast in the last 16 and extra time to overcome Morocco in the quarter-finals before another shoot-out against Cameroon—the equivalent of a whole extra match in often energy-sapping conditions.

That explains why Egypt assistant coach Hossam Sayed suggested moving the final back a day to allow his team more time to recover.

"Senegal have one extra day to train and therefore maybe we should play the final on Monday," he said after

the semi-final.

This Cup of Nations has already seen the Confederation of African Football announce last-minute venue changes without offering an official explanation, while the third-place play-off was belatedly brought forward a day to Saturday.

Egypt, though, will not get their wish and must try to avoid the fate of Croatia, who similarly needed two penalty shoot-outs and another in extra time to reach the 2016 World Cup final, where they were well beaten by France.

"We are the only team that has played three times 120 minutes but we are very well prepared physically and we have the commitment needed to keep going to the end," insisted Al-Sayed.

Egypt will be without veteran Portuguese coach Quereq after he was shown a red card against Cameroon, while right-back Oussama Kamel is suspended too.

They must also hope Salah can have more of an impact on the game than he did in the semi-final when he often appeared isolated on the right flank.

Without doubt Senegal have the greater depth, from Chelsea's Edouard Mendy in goal to skipper Kalidou Koulibaly in central defence, Paris Saint-Germain's Idriss Gueye in midfield and Mane on the wing.

Mane, like Salah, gets the attention but Senegal will hope their collective strength can make the difference.

Langer quits as Australia men's cricket coach

The 51-year-old stepped down from the top management job after failing to secure support of senior players.

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
SYDNEY (AP)

Australian men's cricket coach Justin Langer announced his abrupt departure Saturday, just weeks after his side trounced archrivals England in a top-sided Ashes series and months after they won the T20 World Cup.

The 51-year-old resigned from the top management job in Australian sports after failing to secure the public support of key players, and as governing body Cricket Australia made clear his days were numbered.

Board members held lengthy "robust" discussions about Langer's future into Friday night, but failed to reach an agreement with the former Test batsman. The coach is said to have bristled at being offered a one-time extension until the end of the T20 World Cup in November—despite a stellar record that culminated in a 4-0 Ashes victory and Australia being ranked the world's number one Test team.

Sports management company DSEC announced Langer's departure in a terse statement saying "our client Justin Langer has this morning tendered his resignation as coach of the Australian men's cricket team".

The resignation follows a meeting with Cricket Australia last evening. The resignation is effective immediately."

Cricket Australia said it had accepted Langer's resignation, while praising his "outstanding leadership". "Justin is not only a legend of the game but an outstanding individual," it said, adding Andrew McDonald has been appointed as interim head coach.

In the months leading to his departure disgruntled players complained anonymously to local media about his "bossman-like" leadership style.

But his position seemed unshakable when the new captain and world number one bowler Pat Cummins pointedly refused to publicly endorse Langer when asked recently "to sign in Cricket Australia's hands," he said. "They're just going through an evaluation process at the moment which I think is fair and the right thing to do."

Cricket Australia CEO Nick Hockley did not give details of the dressing room divisions, but said it was time for the team to "transition" to a new coach for the sake of "unity and future success".

Langer took the job in 2014, with Australian cricket at its lowest ebb for decades in the wake of the sandpaper-gate cheating affair that shocked the country.

Langer not only ended the rot but oversaw a string of wins that took Australia back to the top of the Test rankings and culminated in recent victories in The World Cup and the Ashes.

Hockley said Cricket Australia would be looking for someone "strategic" to manage batting, bowling and other coaches who were ready to step up into more autonomous roles.

Langer played 181 Tests from 1993 to 2007, averaging 45.21 and amassing 7,686 runs, including 25 centuries.

Several prominent players have suggested Langer may be a good fit for the new-coachless England side.

Middlesbrough stun Man United

NEWS
MANCHESTER (AP)

Manchester United were dumped out of the FA Cup fourth round by Championship side Middlesbrough 2-1 on penalties after wasting a handful of chances in a 1-1 draw at Old Trafford on Friday.

Rob Knappick's side dominated throughout but ultimately paid for their profligacy in a tense shoot-out when, after the first 15 penalties had all been converted, United youngster Anthony Elanga blazed over to send 1,000 Boro fans wild.

Julian Sanchez's 12th-minute goal, shortly after Cristiano Ronaldo had missed a penalty, was scored reward for United's superiority with Ronaldo and Marcus Rashford both culpable of failing to take golden chances.

Cris Wickie's Boro kept themselves in the tie, however, and equalized in the 64th minute when former United youth player Matt Crooks converted from close range.

Boro's Fernandes somehow struck the post with the goal gaping soon after that and United then harbored away at Boro's defense in extra time all to no avail.

Boro then showed incredible poise with their penalties to send the 12-time FA Cup winners tanking out.

It was a bizarre blow for United who will wonder how they will not be in the hot for the fifth round after having 20 goal attempts to Boro's six.

"Incredibly disappointed, we should have won and killed off the game in the first half," Knappick said. "Cristiano, post, missed penalty and cornered chances. It should have been 2-0 or 1-1."

SPORTS

Sevilla held after Rakitic misses injury-time penalty

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BARCELONA, SPAIN

Sevilla wasted a chance to cut gap in La Liga leaders Real Madrid after Ivan Rakitic had an injury-time penalty saved in a 0-0 draw at Osasuna on Saturday.

Jules Kounde gave Sevilla a golden opportunity to snatch the late-stage winner after he was fouled by Osasuna's Muna Sanchez in the area, only for goalkeeper Sergio Herrera to block Rakitic's resulting spot kick.

Premier Manchester United forward Anthony Martial debuted for Sevilla in their starting lineup but, like most of his teammates, was held in check by Osasuna's disciplined defense in Pamplona.

Eying the opportunity this season to finally add to their single league title from 1948, Sevilla added to their already deep squad in the winter transfer market. Martial arrived on loan from United on the heels of Jesus Corona's transfer from Porto three weeks ago.

Playing his fourth match since arriving, Corona was the only Sevilla attacker able to poke holes in Osasuna's defense with his dribbling. But his only shot in the 76th minute sailed well high.

"We had a bit of bad luck (on the penalty), but this team have guts. We only took a point here, but we are going to fight for all three points in the games ahead," Corona said. "We are a team that is going to fight until the end."

Sevilla forward Lucas Ocampos was dropped from the starting 11 after sustaining an injury while warming up. Sevilla then just left back Gerardo Montiel with another injury just minutes into the match. Both Argentines had recently returned from playing for their national squad.

Goalkeeper Yassine Bounou and strikers Youssef En-Nesyri and Munir El Haddadi all played for Sevilla after returning from playing for Morocco in the African Cup.

Here Mila continued his good scoring form after finding the net twice to lead Eibar's 1-1 comeback win over Alaves. Mila has scored six goals in his last six league appearances.

Elsewhere, Bora Mladenovic scored twice to help Celta Vigo beat Rayo Vallecano 2-0. Mladenovic used the inside of his left foot to redirect a corner kick into the net with his back to the goal to score a fine second goal.

Milovanovic fought back to beat Cadiz 2-1 after Salva Sevilla and Vitor Matos, who made his debut, converted penalties.

Giroud inspires AC Milan's comeback win

The France striker scores twice in the space of three minutes in the Rossoneri's 2-1 victory over leaders Inter Milan.



AC Milan's Olivier Giroud (right) scores his side's second goal against Inter Milan at San Siro on Saturday. His goals also ended the champions' 16-match unbeaten streak in the Serie A.

NEWS
ROME, Italy

Olivier Giroud scored twice in three minutes to earn AC Milan a stunning 1-1 comeback win over Serie A leaders Inter Milan on Saturday, ending the Rossoneri's one-point-off top as the champions' 16-match unbeaten league run came to an end.

Ivan Perisic put Inter in front at a crucial San Siro late in the first half, breaking Milan's resistance after their goalkeeper Mike Maignan pulled off two superb saves.

But Giroud, starting in the place of Milan's injured top scorer Zlatan Ibrahimovic, stepped in as equalizer in the 75th minute before finding the bottom corner three minutes later to turn the game on its head.

"I was a bit frustrated in the first half, like the whole team, because we didn't play well and we knew that,"

Giroud told DAZN. "After the break we showed a great team spirit. We are back! The road is still long. We are in the race, but there are a lot of games left to play and later remain on top."

It was only the second defeat of the season for Simone Inzaghi's side, but they remain top on 51 points, one ahead of their city rivals with a game in hand.

"It's normal to be disappointed, we all know how important the derby is," Inzaghi said. "We lost undeservedly but that is football. We need to analyse it calmly and see where we were lacking, because objectively speaking, we gave away practically nothing up to the first goal."

Inter came into the game in favouritism, as their impressive league form contrasted with a Milan side that drew with Juventus and lost to Spezia in its last two games.

The "Verazzetti," who were the "horns" team for the day at San Siro, looked the likelier winners throughout the first half.

Denzel Dumfries headed in early on, but the goal was disallowed for an offside in the build-up, before Maignan readjusted his footing to keep out a deflected Matteo Braccini shot.

Nicolò Barella struck a shot narrowly wide before Maignan again saved Milan with a superb stop on a close-range Dumfries effort, although his Inter counterpart Samir Handanovic also sprang into action when he flew to palm away a Sandro Tonali shot.

Milan's defensive efforts were eventually undone in the simplest circumstances, when Perisic was left unmarked at a corner to guide a volley in.

A capry second half offered

few big chances until Giroud transformed the game.

The Frenchman was quickest to react to a deflected Ibrahimovic shot, stretching at the back post to top in a finish, and three minutes later he turned his snaker in the box and guided in a calm finish.

Theo Hernandez was sent off deep in stoppage time for a reckless lunge on Dumfries, but Milan did not need to hang on for long to record their first Milan derby comeback win since February 2004.

Later on Saturday Lazio beat Fiorentina 3-0 to move above the Florence club and AS Roma into sixth place.

Second-half strikes from Sergej Milinkovic-Savic and Chris Irwin and a Cristiano Ronaldo own goal gave Maurizio Sarri's side a comfortable win at the Artemio Franchi stadium.

Bayern Munich in control of Bundesliga

NEWS
MUNICH, Germany

Bayern Munich overcame a rattling first from RB Leipzig to win 3-2 at home on Saturday and stay well in control of the Bundesliga title race.

The German champions twice surrendered the lead but regained it a third time, with Josko Gvardiol's own goal in the second half proving decisive in the end.

Thomas Mueller tapped Bayern into the lead in the 12th minute from close range after Leipzig goalkeeper Peter Gulacsi could parry a shot from Robert Lewandowski.

Pictoglass forward Andre Silva hauled in an equalizer for the visitors in the 27th minute, chasing a loose ball after Konrad Laimer's chip had bounced past the post and scrambling it over the line.

Bayern quickly set about restoring their lead, with Kingsley Coman hitting the post and Muller then heading into the net, only for the goal to be ruled out for a foul by Lewandowski in Gvardiol's area.

Lewandowski soon made amends by putting Bayern back in front, heading home a cross from Coman to score his 24th Bundesliga goal of the season.

French winger Christopher Nkunku pulled Leipzig level early in the second half, only for Bayern to take the lead for the third time when Gvardiol's scrappingly turned in a cross from Serge Gnabry.

Swedish forward Emil Forsberg had a chance to squander with eight minutes remaining but was denied by Bayern's goalkeeper Manuel Neuer.



Robert Lewandowski has scored 24 goals in 21 games in Bundesliga this season.

Nepal ready for T20 Global Qualifiers

A revamped Nepali team will fly to Oman targeting a place in the World Twenty20 finals for the first time since 2014.



Nepal (pictured), hosts Oman, Canada and the Philippines are in pot 2 while Ireland, the United Arab Emirates, Germany and Bahrain in pot 1. The finalists will advance to the November finals.

SPORTS BUREAU
KATHMANDU, FEB 6

With an ambition of securing a place in the Twenty20 World Cup finals for the second time, the national cricket team of Nepal are all prepared for the final phase of qualifiers—the ICC Men's T20 Cup Global Qualifiers set to take place from February 14 to 19 in Oman.

A much revamped Nepal is preparing to fly to Oman on Tuesday where they are also scheduled to play a four-team T20 Series comprising hosts Oman, and Ireland and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to fine-tune their preparations for the Qualifiers. The T20 Series is set to be played from February 14 to 19.

The Group Y of the Global Qualifiers features eight teams with Nepal, Oman, Canada and the Philippines pitted in Group Y while Group X comprises Ireland, the United Arab Emirates, Germany and Bahrain. The finalists of the Qualifiers will book tickets for World T20 finals in November.

The Nepal team went through many ups and downs in the past couple of months. The disturbances in national cricket, change in captaincy beyond of the national camp by some of the key players and finally a reconciliation and closed camp were among some of the incidents Nepal cricket went through. And now the team is united for a common goal of making it to the World T20 finals for the second time, after

winning a berth for the global showpiece in 2014.

Stu Luckman from Canada coach Pabala Dassanayake, who led Nepal to their maiden World T20 in 2014, has been reappointed coach to achieve Nepal's dream of second global showpiece. Unlike in the past, the Nepali team is now stacked with youth players with just former captain Gymerendra Malik and Sharad Veswakar as the players of the previous generation.

Rather Laksh Bahadur and all-rounder Bikesh Yadav are among the latest recruits in the national T20. Leg spinner Sanakay Lamichhane has been handed the captain's responsibility. But coach Dassanayake has high hopes Nepal would make it to the World T20 finals.

"We had few challenges with our training schedule due to weather conditions and Covid situation. Despite that, we got what we wanted from our training session," said Dassanayake. "At the beginning we had few issues with Covid situation, but now we are fully fit and everyone is fit to go and the team is united."

He was also upbeat about Nepal's prospects of securing a World Cup berth. "I am pretty confident. I am looking for momentum out there and we are fully settled so I have full confidence and I am hoping Nepal plays a second World Cup," said Dassanayake who also warned that his side could not afford to make any mistakes. "The tournament is in such a way that we cannot make any mistakes," he said

referring to the four team group. "It is a very short tournament and mistakes to one or two games could prove damaging."

He also said that he was much impressed with new talents and the batting performance of the team. "I was surprised when I came five weeks ago and saw new talents. We are a good batting unit," he said, adding, "Oman would be the team to beat in the tournament."

"Once in the home team and they know the home conditions very well. They have been playing a lot of cricket lately and they are the one team to beat for sure. Moving forward, Ireland and UAE are also tough teams so we need to play our best cricket," said the Canadian.

Veteran Sharad Veswakar, an influential member of the 2014 squad who married his comeback for the shortest format of the game after 2018, said that the team was balanced and they were capable of securing a place in the finals. "The team is balanced and playing well in the practice also. Rather than concentrating on personal things, each player needs to focus on giving their best for the team. Everyone knows their role and will play as per the requirements," said the all-rounder.

"I am confident about playing in the World Cup for the second time. It is just a matter of two games because if we give our best in those two matches and play to our potential, we can make it to the World Cup," he said, adding there were a lot of differences between

the 2014 team and the current one.

"Though many players are young, they are ready for the game. Compared to our team of 2014 and this time, we were not as ready then as now. If we are able to execute our plans, the outcome could be best," said Veswakar, adding that unlike in the past the team has transformed to a batting side from a bowling unit.

"In the past our strength used to be bowling but now we are more confident in our batting strength. Our batting has been consistently good and the bowling is also up to the mark. However, the outcome depends upon how we play on a particular day," he said, adding that the presence of young players would not have an effect on the performance.

"We have been playing with the same players in the domestic games and everyone knows each other's quality very well, so I would not say it is a transition phase. If we could focus on our duty we could qualify."

Captain Sanakay Lamichhane, who will shoulder the captain's responsibility for the first time, also expressed satisfaction with the training. "The training is up to the mark and we will give our best percent. It is a time for us to carry the momentum of 2014 and take Nepal cricket to a higher level. It is the dream of all Nepali people," he said, adding that there were no big differences in his role despite taking over the captaincy for the first time. "Though it's a new role for me, I used to lead the bowling department in the past."

Synnott bags Kiwi's first Winter Olympics gold

The New Zealand's snowboarder scores 92.88 on her final run, landing back-to-back 1080s in women's slopestyle.

ASSOCIATED PRESS
REUTERS

The kind of long white cloud has its first gold medal in Winter Olympics history.

Zoi Saldowski Synnott of New Zealand threw down a thrilling run on her last try down the Secret Garden Olympic Slopestyle course on Sunday to claim the gold medal for her island nation.

"Greatest run of my life," said the 26-year-old Saldowski Synnott, an Australian-born snowboarder with an American mother and a Kiwi father.

They moved to Wanaka, on New Zealand's South Island, when she was 4.

New Zealand is best known for its beloved All Blacks rugby team and even for being home of sailing's America's Cup. But it also has mountain resorts, including near where Saldowski Synnott lives, making it one of the top destinations in the Southern Hemisphere for snowboarding and skiing.

"Absolute dabble," Saldowski Synnott said. "It probably means more to me to win New Zealand's first winter gold."

She attended the supervised course with a challenging, progressive run despite hard-packed snow and bone-dry conditions that made it hard on most of the 11 finalists. That included two-time defending champion Jamie Anderson, who finished ninth.

Saldowski Synnott went into her last of three runs trailing American rival Julia Marino but came up big.

She landed a double-cork 1080 on the second-to-last jump, including a solid grab of the middle of the board that she held for more than long enough for the judges to see clearly. And then she repeated the double-cork in a different direction, the way she did in her victory at the Winter X Games last month when she became the first woman to pull it off.

Saldowski Synnott raised her hands in the air after landing and was tackled in celebration at the finish line by

Marino, who won silver and bronze medals in Two Coals of Australia.

"Pretty sick," Saldowski Synnott said of the celebration.

Chinese teenager Su Yixiang went with a big trick early and was the surprise leader in the men's slopestyle qualifying round.

Throwing a triple cork, the kind of trick most riders save for the finals, Su finished with a score of 86.00. It topped his 100, Mark McMorris of Canada, and defending Olympic champion Red Gerard, who also both advanced to Monday's final.

The 17-year-old Su stopped his lands in excitement after finishing his first round run as a spurs audience in the stands cheered. So too a high competition in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, in December. His best slopestyle finish on the World Cup circuit was sixth on New Year's Day.

Gerard wound up fifth in qualifying and McMorris second. The top 12 riders moved on.

The men's downhill, the first event of the Alpine skiing schedule, was postponed because of strong wind that made it too dangerous to race at the top of The Rock, the speed course at Vail's Alpine Skiing Center. The best slopestyle finish on the World Cup circuit was sixth on New Year's Day.

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Zoi Saldowski Synnott celebrates after winning gold medal in Zhongjiao, China on Sunday.

BRIEFING

Chelsea to play Al Hilal in Club World Cup semi-finals

ABU DHABI The two will face Al Hilal of Saudi Arabia in the Club World Cup semi-finals after the Asian Champions League winners came from behind to rout Al Jazira 4-1 on Sunday. Abdoulaye Diallo struck first for Al Jazira, but Al Hilal responded with two goals before half time from Moussa Makhadmeh and Odion Ighalo and Matheus Pereira. Mohamed Kanno headed in a corner to increase Al Hilal's lead on 77th and Salem Al Dosari added a fourth with a composed finish. Moussa Makhadmeh and Andre Carrillo completed a stamping win with late goals for the record four-time Asian champions. Al Hilal will take on Chelsea at the same ground on Wednesday for a place in the February 12 final. African giants Al Ahly meet Palmeiras of Brazil in the first semi-final at Al Nahyan Stadium on Tuesday.

Forest stun holders Leicester

NOTTINGHAM Leicester City's hopes of retaining the FA Cup came to a brutal end on a 4-1 drubbing away to Midlands rivals Nottingham Forest in the fourth round on Sunday. A two-goal Forest scored these times in 18 minute first-half minutes with Philip Zangaris, Ivan van den Bergh and Joe Worrall all punishing some City's Leicester defending. Leicester grabbed a lifeline before halftime as Khaled El-Dars scored on an error to score from an acute angle. But there was no stopping the hosts and they continued to dominate their supposed superiors after the break and netted their three-goal margin when Joel Spence slotted home. (AGENCIES)

Senegal win their first African Cup title

The Lions of Teranga beat Egypt 4-2 on penalties after the final match ended in a goalless draw at the end of extra time.

NAIROBI
KENYA

Sadio Mane made up for missing from the spot in normal time to score the decisive penalty as Senegal overcame Mohamed Salah's Egypt 4-2 in a shoot-out to win their first Africa Cup of Nations title after Sunday's final finished goalless at the end of extra time.

Mane had seen Mohamed Abou Gabal save a seventh-minute penalty at the Orange Stadium in Senegal but Egypt could not capitalize as they went to extra time for the fourth consecutive game at this Cup of Nations.

Salah was due to step up to take Egypt's fifth penalty but with Mohamed Abdelmonem hitting the post and Mohamed Lashen having his kick saved by Edouard Mendy, the Liverpool star did not get his chance and was already on the verge of tears as his club teammate Mane prepared to strike the decisive blow.

After two previous final defeats, Senegal are Cup of Nations winners at last, while Egypt missed out on a record-extending eighth continental crown that would also have been a first for Salah.

"It just shows that if you work hard, if you persevere, you will get what you want," Senegal coach Aliou Cisse told broadcaster beIN Sports. "I am very emotional because the people of Senegal have wanted this trophy for 60 years."

Senegal's celebrations followed a disappointing final, the fifth in the last 11 editions of the tournament to be decided in a shoot-out after a goalless draw.

Egypt had already twice won finals that had been settled on penalties after



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flashing 90, and they had already won in the same manner twice in the last five nights, against the Ivory Coast and Cameroon.

This time their luck ran out as the tournament ended at the venue where eight people died and 38 were injured in a crash on January 24.

Desperate to make up for losing the 2019 final to Algeria, Senegal had a golden early chance to take the lead when outstanding left back Salisu Cissoko was chopped down by Abdelmonem in the box. Mane stepped up, but his kick was too close to the middle of the goal and Abou Gabal was able to save.

Salah needed nearly half an hour to

make an impact with a jinking run in from the right, and a shot easily saved by Mendy and the Chelsea goalkeeper then produced an excellent stop to tip a Salah effort over just before half-time.

Extra time again

Carlos Spearo's Egypt team are masters of the dark arts, regularly looking to waste time, and the Portuguese coach himself was suspended here after losing his temper in the semi-final and being sent off. Their coaching staff pulled the strings on the benches, moving Salah into a central role after an hour, and substitute centre-forward Marwan

Hamdy missed a glorious chance soon after as he headed wide from point-blank range.

By then it was clear that Egypt were willing to go to extra time again, once that they could rely on more heroes from their goalkeeper.

Abou Gabal, nicknamed Gabaladi, dived away Senegalese Dia's 198th-minute header after a fine cross by Cisse, and he also kept out a Dumbo Dingy pleydrier in the second period of extra time.

With Mendy saving from Hamdy at the other end, penalties were inevitable, and it proved to be Senegal's night with Bouna Sarr their only player to miss his kick.

New boys send Juventus into Serie A top four

MILAN
ITALY

Dusan Vlahovic and Denis Zakaria enjoyed from Juventus debuts on Sunday with a goal each in a 2-0 win over Verona which puts their new team in Serie A's Champions League places.

The duo made sure that Juve took advantage of Atalanta failing to a shock 2-1 home defeat to Cagliari by beating Verona in Turin to take their place in the top four for the first time this season.

Serie A forward Vlahovic took just 12 minutes at Allianz Stadium to show why Juve shelled out an initial 70 million euros to snatch him from Fiorentina, turning onto Paolo Dybal's chipped through ball before sending a delicate left-foot finish over Verona goalkeeper Lorenzo Montipò. Zakaria, who arrived for 45 million euros from Borussia Mönchengladbach, sealed the points in the 84th minute when he was sent clear through on goal by Alvaro Morata and lashed home a precise finish which put Juve two points ahead of fifth-placed Atalanta.

In Verona, Victor Osimhen put Napoli at the heart of the title race with a goal in his first start since November which helped his team to a 2-0 win.

Nigeria striker Osimhen, who had made two brief substitute appearances since fracturing bones in his face in a sidekick head clash at Inter, kept to hand Napoli ahead just before the hour mark. Andrea Petagna sealed the points in the extra time.

Osimhen's sixth Serie A goal of the season helped put Napoli just one point behind Inter.

Chinese tennis star Peng appears at Olympics, gives controlled interview

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BEIJING

Nothing to see here, move on.

That was the message that Chinese tennis player Peng Shuai delivered Monday in a controlled interview in Beijing that touched on sexual assault allegations she made against a former high-ranking member of China's ruling Communist Party. Her answers—delivered in front of a Chinese Olympic committee official string in on the discussion, translating Peng's comments from Chinese.

Large parts of the hour-long interview, conducted Sunday in a Beijing hotel and organized through China's Olympic committee with the IOC's help, focused on Peng's playing career. At age 36, and after multiple knee surgeries, Peng said she couldn't envisage a return to over-level professional tennis. She hasn't played on the women's tour since February of 2018.

The newspaper published her comments verbatim—which it said was another pre-condition for the inter-

view—in question-and-answer form.

Photos of Peng during the interview showed her wearing a red track suit top with "China" in Chinese characters on the front.

L'Espresso asked Peng about sexual assault allegations that sparked the controversy in November.

The allegations were quickly scrubbed from her verified account on a leading Chinese social media platform, Weibo. She subsequently dropped out of public view for a while. That led to "where is Peng Shuai?" questions online and from players and fans outside of China, in part because the country has a history of disappearing people who run afoul of its leaders.

In her lengthy post, Peng wrote that Zhang Guoli, a former vice premier and member of the ruling Chinese Communist Party's all-powerful

Politburo Standing Committee, had forced her to have sex despite repeated refusals. Her post also said they had sex once seven years ago, and that she developed romantic feelings for him after that. Zhang has not commented on the accusation.

The interview with L'Espresso was her first sit-down discussion with non-Chinese-language media since the accusation.

"Sexual assault? I never said that anyone made me submit to a sexual assault," the newspaper quoted her as saying. "This just resulted in an enormous misunderstanding from the outside world," she also said. "My wish is that the meaning of this post no longer be skewed."

Asked by L'Espresso why the post disappeared from Peng's account, she said, "I censored it."

"Why? Because I wanted to," she added.

The obvious follow-up question of why she posted in the first place wasn't asked.

The IOC also wanted Monday to defuse the situation. It said Bach dined with Peng on Saturday, a day after Chinese President Xi Jinping opened the Winter Olympics. The IOC said Peng also attended the China-Norway Olympic curling match with IOC member Kirsty Coventry of Zimbabwe.

In the interview, Peng echoed views often expressed by the Chinese government about sport and politics.

"I was to say first of all that emotions, sport and politics are three clearly separate things," the newspaper quoted her as saying. "My romantic problems, my private life should not be mixed with sport and politics."

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The International Olympic Committee on Monday said its president Thomas Bach dined with Peng Shuai on Saturday.

Chen smashes world record at Olympics

The American scores 113.97 in men's figure skating short programme to break Japan's Hanyu's previous best of 111.82.

ASSOCIATED PRESS
GUY LAWRENCE

Nathan Chen flipped, whirled and even pushed his way to a world-record score in the men's figure skating short programme at the Beijing Olympics. Next up for the Salt Lake City native: an expected and long-awaited coronation as Olympic champion.

Chen made history in a historic venue on Tuesday, creating the world record with a score of 113.97 at Capital Indoor Stadium, site of the 1971 ping-pong diplomatic matches between the United States and China. Chen shined on a day when the US women's hockey team just 4-2 to trounce Canada in the preliminary round and San Francisco native Ellen Gu brushed aside a torrent of hate on social media and won the gold medal in freestyle big air while representing China.

Dressed in his traditional, suave Mackard-white suit, Chen performed perhaps his favourite programme to La Bohème, the 1906 standard by the French-Austrian singer Charles Aznavour.

Opening with a perfect quad flip, the 25-year-old Chen breezed through his chin-waving triple axel and then drilled his quad flip-triple toe loop combination. He skated to a stop and, in a rare show of emotion, punched the air with his right fist.

Chen's score was nearly two points more than the previous world record set by two-time defending Olympic champion Yuzuru Hanyu. To win the gold medal, Chen needs to hold off Japanese rivals Yuma Kagiyama and Shoma Uno in Thursday's free skate. Hanyu finished eighth Tuesday.

American-born Ellen Gu struck back at her many critics by winning the gold medal in the debut of freestyle



Triple world champion Nathan Chen needs to hold off Japanese rivals Yuma Kagiyama and Shoma Uno in Thursday's free skate to win gold.

big air and then defiantly answering questions about why she sparred Team USA to represent China at the Beijing Games.

The 16-year-old Gu is an American citizen whose mother is Chinese. Gu estimates she has spent at least a quarter of her life in China. She sided with China in 2018, saying she wants to encourage girls and women to take up winter sports.

Gu struck the best performance of her life at Big Air Shanghai, landing a double cork 1080 for the first time in her career in her final turn to stun Two Ladies of France. It's a move in which skiers spin 1 1/2 times while rotating twice off-axis while

20-some feet in the air.

Tennis player Peng Shuai, who has rarely appeared publicly since accusing a Chinese official of sexual assault, was in the stands.

Mathias Mayer of Austria overcame one of his poles getting stuck in the start house to win the men's super-G and become the first man to win gold medals in Alpine sliding at three straight Olympics.

Back home he'll be known as a "Dreifach-Olympiasieger," or three-time Olympic champion. He also won the super-G at the 2018 Pyeongchang Games and the downhill at the 2014 Sochi Olympics.

Barring a major upset, women's

hockey powerhouse Canada and the United States are expected to meet for the women's hockey gold medal final next week.

Canada pulled from a one-goal deficit by scoring three goals in a span of 4 minutes, 20 seconds in the second period. Brianna Jenner scored twice for the Canadians.

Canada and the United States have been fierce rivals since before women's hockey made its Olympic debut at the 1998 Nagano Games, when the Americans best the Canadians in the gold medal game. Canada won gold in the next four Olympics before losing a 3-2 shootout to the Americans in 2018.

Dhakai added to Nepal squad

SPORTS MEDLEY
GUY LAWRENCE

Skipper Sagar Dhakai has been added to the Nepal national cricket squad that left for Oman on Tuesday to play a Quadrangular Twenty20 International Series ahead of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Global Qualifiers.

The Series featuring Nepal, Oman, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and hosts Oman will take place from February 11 to 14 while the Global Qualifiers will be played from February 18 to 21. The final squad for Global Qualifiers will be announced on the basis of the players' performance in the four-team tournament.

Youth cricketer Dhakai, who represented Nepal in the ACC U19 Asia Cup in 2018, has been called to the national fold for the first time by coach Pabada Dassanayake. Along with Dhakai, the now 17-member national team will be studied with three new faces along with skipper Bheke Yadav and batter Laksh Bahu.

Twenty-one-year-old Dhakai came to the limelight during the last edition of the franchise tournament Everest Premier League when he was named player-of-the-series. The left-arm orthodox bowler had played a key role in Chitwan Tigers' title triumph claiming 18 wickets in seven matches.

Coach Dassanayake has said that he would pick the final squad for the Global Qualifiers based on the players' performances in the preparatory series.

"We have got three warm-up games before the Global Qualifiers. I am looking to have different combinations and see how these guys will go. We are going to have a final combination of best guys for the Qualifiers," Dassanayake said recently, whose side will go into the tournament with an ambition of making it to the World T20 final for a second time since making their maiden appearance in 2014. The Group 'A' of the Global



Sagar Dhakai joins the national team that left for Oman to play a preparatory series and World T20 Global Qualifiers.

Qualifiers features eight teams with Nepal, Oman, Canada and the Philippines placed in Group 'A', Group 'B' comprises Ireland, the UAE, Germany and Bahrain. The top two finishers of each group will make it to the semi-final and the two finalists will book tickets for World T20 final in November.

Nepal will vie against Oman on February 11, the UAE on the next day and Ireland on February 14 in the Quadrilateral series. In the Global Qualifiers, Nepal are drawn to play against Oman on February 18, the Philippines on February 19 and Canada on February 21 in the group stage.

NEWS ROUND

London (AP) — A 10-year-old boy, identified as Leo, has been named as the suspect in the murder of a 12-year-old girl, a police officer said Tuesday. Leo, who lives in the same neighborhood as the victim, was arrested on Tuesday. The girl, 12, was found dead in a park near her home on Tuesday. The boy's name is Leo, and the girl's name is Leo. The boy's name is Leo, and the girl's name is Leo.

Newcastle face moment of truth as Premier League resumes after winter break

The new-look Magpies look to move away from the drop zone after splashing about £85 million to bring in Guimarães, Wood, Trippier, Burn and Targett in the January transfer window.

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
LINDA WOOD

New-look Newcastle take on Frank Lampard's Everton on Tuesday after splashing the cash in the January transfer window as the Premier League gears up for a first full programme of matches after the winter break.

Billionaire owner Newcastle boss Mike Ashley bought Burnley, lost Manchester United while Manchester City will seek to return to winning ways against Brentford after a new off-day against Southampton last month.

Newcastle became one of the richest clubs in the world when they were bought in October by a group led by

Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund but initially they could do little with their money.

The January transfer window was always likely to be make-or-break for the Magpies, who have just two Premier League wins all season and remain sixth in the relegation zone.

Newcastle were the biggest spenders last month, spending about £85 million (£115 million) to bring in Lyon midfielder Bruno Guimarães, Burnley forward Chris Wood and three debutants — Kiernan Trippier, Dan Burn and Matt Targett — to boost a leaky defence.

For all their problems, Eddie Howe's side are just one point from safety with Burnley and Watford, either side of Newcastle in the drop

zone, struggling to find the wins they desperately need. But Tuesday's game will be a tough one.

Ex-Chelsea boss Lampard started his Everton reign with an aggressive 4-1 win at home to Brentford in the FA Cup and is equally desperate for the points.

Can Rangnick make Man Utd jump?

Manchester United looked like they had at last found some rhythm under interim manager Ralf Rangnick in the early stages of Friday's FA Cup tie against Millersburgh before they lost their way and ended on penalties.

United wasted a gift of golden chances in the fourth-round match and paid the price when the

Championship side equalised.

Rangnick's side still look less than the sum of their parts two months after he took charge at Old Trafford, even though he was surprisingly upbeat about their performance against Burn.

The German has thinned out his blighted squad, allowing forward Anthony Martial and Danny Welbeck to leave on loan but the club are also now without the suspended Mason Greenwood, who was arrested last week on suspicion of rape and assault of a woman before being jailed. For all their attacking riches, United have scored 11 goals fewer than Premier League leaders Manchester City this season and have

struggled to kill off teams.

Winning the Champions League appears unlikely making it vital that United finish in the top four.

Rangnick believes they are going in the right direction but they must find their top goals.

Arsenal short of firepower

Arsenal are in the mix to qualify for the Champions League after an absence of five seasons but do they have the firepower to get them over the line?

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang has now left the club to join Borussia Dortmund after a troubled last few months at the Emirates, leaving Alexandre Lacazette and Eddie Nketiah as the

only senior forward options.

Lacazette has scored just three times in the league while Nketiah, yet to start a league game, has yet to get off the mark.

Manager Mikel Arteta, whose side travel to Wolves on Thursday says his squad has the right amount of quality and experience and is confident they can finish the season on a high. "We know what the team is at the end of the season, where we want to be — it's high but it's possible and we're going to have a real go in the second half of the season to achieve it," he said.

Arteta will look to Eddie Smith, Ravel Morrison and Bakari Sakala to chip in regularly but he may come to regret his lack of options in attack.

BRIEFING

Palmeiras beat Al Ahly to reach Club World Cup final

ABU DHABI Palmeiras midfielder Duda scored a superb second-half goal as the Copa Libertadores winners earned a clinical 3-0 win over Egypt's Al Ahly at Abu Dhabi's Al Nahyan Stadium on Tuesday to book their place in the final of the Club World Cup. After a first opening that produced few chances, the game sprung to life in the 86th minute when Raphael Veiga turned in Duda's excellent first-time throughball to put Palmeiras in front. Al Ahly were jolted again early in the second half after Duda got on the scoresheet himself, rilling home from the right side with a powerful shot following some slick build-up play. Al Ahly, who beat Monterrey 1-0 in the second round, enjoyed more of the ball after the interval but failed to break down a resolute Palmeiras defence. Any hopes of a comeback for the Egyptians were completely wiped out in the 84th minute when Ayman Ashraf was shown a straight red card for a dangerous tackle from behind on frontman Rony.

New Zealand cancels Twenty20 series against Australia

WELLINGTON New Zealand Cricket on Wednesday scrapped next month's T20 series against Australia, saying the move was "inevitable" due to the start of Covid-19 border controls. NZC chief David White said a government decision to push back plans to open the border forced the cancellation of the three-match series, slated to take place in Napier on March 17, 20 and 20. New Zealand has some of the world's toughest border controls, including a 10-day hotel quarantine for all international arrivals. It plans to progressively move to self-isolation for vaccinated arrivals between late February and October, but the change will not be implemented in time to allow Australia's players to skip hotel quarantine. **(AP/WIDE)**

Paswan double seals victory for Police

The winger nets in either half to give the departmental team a 2-0 win over Friends and their second win in the league.



Nepal Police Club's Ravi Paswan (left) controls the ball during the 21 Division League football match against Chyasal Youth Club on Wednesday.

SPORTS BREVES

Winger Ravi Shankar Paswan struck twice for Nepal Police Club as they edged Bhanu relegation strugglers Chyasal Youth Club 2-1 in a rescheduled match of the Martyrs Memorial 'X' Division League at the Dushara Stadium in Tripureswar on Wednesday.

The winger scored at both ends for the once upon a time's giants of Nepali football who pulled their second win of the league campaign in the ninth match. Cameroon-born Moussa Alagans restored parity briefly in the second half for the relegation-threatened Chyasal.

The win lifted Police two spots up to sixth and are level on 18 points with AFC FC. The debut has piled more misery on Chyasal, languishing in the

relegation zone, who are second from bottom with five points. They have won just one and drawn two matches in the league. Bottom two teams at the end of the 14-team contest will be relegated to the second division.

Both the Police and Chyasal came with a must-win pressure in the match rescheduled about three weeks later than the original fixture owing to Covid-19 outbreak among the players of Lalitpur-based team.

Police came with an attacking intent and looked like a better side. Though they dominated the first half they failed to create threatening chances despite piling pressure on opponents. In the very second minute Police defender Ajit Bhandari's header in Suman Lama's corner was easily grabbed by goalie Arjun Karki.

Paswan broke the deadlock in the 17th minute after he collected Nir

Kumar Rai's pass and fired at the far post from outside the area to stun an advancing goalie Karki. Police goalkeeper Suresh Chandra pushed Kamal Shrestha's freekick to safety in the early second half.

Cameroonian Alagans leveled the scores in the third through penalty. The midfielder converted from the spot after Sumon Lama's freekick was headed in the area by Police captain Suman Subedi. Police, however, restored their one-goal cushion through Paswan who collected a through pass from Suman Lama inside the area and drilled past Niraj Maharjan before beating goalie Karki with his close-range strike.

Chyasal's late attempts for an equaliser were unsuccessful as they hit the woodwork twice. Abhinav Limbu's late header in defender Shrestha's strike headed at the bar.

Moussa later Italian forward Bishab Moraglia and substitute Ramesh Subba both wasted scoring opportunities. In the stoppage time, defender Kirtan Yarrick's strike hit the upright after deflecting on Police defender Hemanta Shrestha.

STANDINGS

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Bhanu	9	7	2	0	34	11	23
FC	9	4	1	4	16	8	13
Av	9	4	3	2	20	17	17
Shrestha	9	4	4	1	9	8	16
Shrestha	9	3	5	1	10	9	14
FC	9	3	4	2	8	8	13
Shrestha	9	2	3	4	9	11	9
Shrestha	9	2	4	3	11	11	8
FC	9	2	4	3	8	10	8
Shrestha	9	2	2	5	4	8	8
Shrestha	9	1	3	5	5	11	6
Shrestha	9	1	2	6	4	17	5
Shrestha	9	0	2	7	6	11	2

Jacobellis wins Olympic gold at last



Lindsey Jacobellis won gold in her fifth Games, and also became the oldest US woman to win a medal at Winter Olympics.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lindsey Jacobellis is finally an Olympic gold medalist.

Let that sink in for a moment because Jacobellis has been trying for 18 years.

Jacobellis helped make the wild sport of snowboard cross famous. Who could forget her premature celebration as she approached the finish line in the 2005 Torino Games, an ill-fated board grab that sent her tumbling out of the lead? In a way, she became one of the best-known older medalists of all time.

Now Jacobellis will be remembered as the first American gold medalist at the Beijing Olympics. Jacobellis rode hard to the finish of the snowboard cross final on Wednesday, beating Chloe Treschep of France and covering her heart with her hands as she slowed.

Jacobellis was 36 when she made the mistake in Torino. Now 38 and in her fifth Olympics, she became the oldest US woman to win a gold. The 14 years is also the longest gap between medals for any US woman.

"They are keep talking about it all the way because it really stayed me into the individual that I am," Jacobellis said. "It kept me hungry and really kept me fighting in this sport."

Mikaela Shiffrin arrived in Beijing heavily favored to add to her collection of two Olympic gold medals but instead is 4 for 2, a shocking development that has left her shaken.

She began losing her balance and tumbling out of control just four seconds and four gates in. She overrode her fear as she veered to her right and she ended up way wide of the fifth gate.

There was nothing left to do but ski to the side of the course known as the Ice River, slick out of her skis and sit on the ground, her head resting in her arms.

Petra Vlhara won the gold, Slovakia's first Olympic medal in Alpine skiing.

Birk Beaul of Norway won the gold medal in the Olympics' first men's freestyle big air event.

Burnley frustrate Man United, Newcastle boost survival bid

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

Manchester United dropped out of the Premier League's top four after a damaging 1-0 draw against struggling Burnley, while Newcastle boosted their survival bid with a crucial 3-2 win against Everton on Tuesday.

Ralf Rangnick's side slipped down to fifth place after Jay Rodriguez conceded out Paul Pogba's opener at Turf Moor.

West Ham moved up to fourth, one point ahead of United, after a 1-0 win against second bottom Watford at the London Stadium. But their match was

overshadowed by David Moyes' controversial decision to select Scott Carson just hours after the French defender was forced to apologise when a video emerged of him kicking and slapping his cat.

With Cristiano Ronaldo left on the bench for 68 minutes, Manchester United were made to pay for not making more of a dominant first half after Pogba put them in front with a thunderous strike from the edge of the area in the 38th minute.

United's troubled season hit another bump in the road when they were dumped out of the FA Cup by Championship side Millersburgh on

penalties on Friday.

The lesson from that defeat was not learned as again they had more than enough chances to kill the game before being punished for a slack piece of defending.

Two minutes after the break, West Wagoner left Harry Maguire trailing and Aligned Rodriguez, who held off the United captain, to dim the ball beyond David De Gea.

Burnley's 11th draw in 20 league games this season was not enough to move them off the foot of the table.

At St James' Park, Newcastle fell behind to January's last goal in the first half. But the Magpies had

the perfect response as Mason Holgate's own goal squashed a mounting revival. Ryan Fraser put Newcastle ahead after half-time and Keinan Topper's superb freekick rebound off the boss' seemed successive via.

They are unbeaten in five league games.

Everton are now in serious danger and new boss Frank Lampard will have been left in no doubt about the size of the task facing him.

Lampard's first game in charge was a 4-1 win over Brentford in the FA Cup fourth round on Saturday but the home-erosion ended much quicker than the former Chelsea boss would have liked.

Everton have failed to win their last six league games and sit uncomfortably just one point above Newcastle.

Everton police have launched an investigation into Zouma's treatment of his cat and West Ham condemned the incident, but Moyes said he pulled him because he was "one of our better players".

Zouma was booed by both West Ham and Watford fans during the match, with Hornets supporters singing "that's low you cat hole" when the 27-year-old went down injured.

Armed Bowen's deflected winner in the 88th minute was the only other finding on a grey day for the club.