

Captain Shreyas Iyer's reply on not picking Vaibhav Sooryavanshi for 1st India vs Ireland T20I

NEW DELHI: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi had the world's attention from the time he was picked for India's T20I squad against Ireland for a 2-match series that began on Friday. Sooryavanshi had an extended net session on Thursday, where he was seen talking with Gautam Gambhir and other senior India coaching staff. However, Sooryavanshi has not been named in the playing XI for the 1st T20I against Ireland. Had Sooryavanshi been picked, at 15 years, 91 days, he would have been the youngest debutant in Indian cricket (men's or women's). "Unfortunately, no (Sooryavanshi is not playing). He's a gun player but we have some tremendous players who have done well for us so we are backing them. He will get his chance when the time comes," Shreyas Iyer, new India captain, said at the toss. Iyer opted to bowl in the match. Shafali Verma is the youngest (15 years, 239 days) to play for India. In men's cricket, Sachin Tendulkar (16 years, 205 days) holds



that record. Sooryavanshi not getting picked has a lot to do with the strong top order that India possess. Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson and Ishan Kishan were part of the T20 World Cup, and dropping any one of them to accommodate Vaibhav Sooryavanshi would have been a big decision. India batting coach Sitanshu Kotak on Thursday had said: "And I am sure that he will get his dues and his opportunities. So I don't think that just to give him an opportunity, we should drop someone who has already been scoring runs.

"That also won't be right. I think there is a very thin line between trying to give somebody an opportunity and being unfair to some other player," said Kotak. With so much T20 talent ready for the highest level, Kotak felt even selectors have a very tough job at hand. He is relieved that he is not part of the team selection process. "If you ask me, there is so much talent in India that even the selectors have a headache. Honestly, I don't have such a big headache because I am not the head coach and the captain. But sometimes it is tough. "But we also have to remember one thing - those who are already performing should never be ignored, as I believe. Those who are already scoring, winning games for the team. BC-Cl's structure is such that players will keep coming," said the former Saurashtra cricketer when asked how tough it is to bench someone from a World Cup-winning squad.

Viral Dutch 'Hop' in Kansas City, involved teaching locals left, right in Dutch

TEXAS: After the Norwegian 'Row' comes the Netherlands 'Hop'. Arms linked in hundreds of lines, the Dutch supporters on a 'Oranje walk' (March to the match) in Kansas City ahead of their last game against Tunisia, did the crowd hop - an act of impossible coordination needing sync. The 'Hop' entails fans linking up at the shoulder standing in lines, then hopping up and down, while the whole wave moves first left, then right to happy music. The chant has three hops in each direction, then repeat. The song lyrics went, "Now it's time to party, pull out all the stops... let's hope it doesn't rain cause the roof is coming off... skip your medication, so you can lose your mind... everyone from left to right, we're going side to side." Thousands arrived at downtown Kansas City in Missouri to form a sea of orange, and the number was estimated at 20,000-23,000 as they were joined by locals according to KCTV. Kansas City police gloated the fan walk was larger than at Dallas. American cities are currently engaged in proving who is liked best by visiting



fans, with Boston and Miami fighting over the Scotts, and Dallas and Kansas City wooing the Dutch. Dressed in their signature orange, the march was led by a double decker Oranjebus at Power & Light District. They then marched to Grand Boulevard and National War museum. Dutch fans are historic for turned gun up to the tune of 40,000 in 1974, dressed in orange. Kansas City locals were educated with Tik tok videos

and Insta instructions on learning what was 'left' and 'right' in Dutch in order to join in the 'Hop'. 'Links' is left, 'rechts' is right. Videos from the march where inflated footballs got tossed around, and cutouts of big names hopped around, went viral. A man dressed in a burger suit showed up to high five. The Netherlands have a tough game coming up against Morocco, seeded 7th in the knockouts.

Can Messi's Argentina and Ronaldo's Portugal meet in knockouts of World Cup?

CALIFORNIA: One of the most mouthwatering clashes in recent World Cup might take place in the quarterfinals if Lionel Messi's Argentina and Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal can both survive their respective Round of 32 clashes. The two legends have faced off countless times for their clubs Real Madrid and Barcelona but have never met in a World Cup stage. The last time these two rivals shared a pitch together was in a friendly match where Messi's Paris Saint Germain played a friendly against a combined all-star XI of Al Hilal and Al Nassr, who also included Ronaldo. PSG ended up winning the match 5-4

with both Messi and Ronaldo on the scoresheet. Now, they might face off once again in a potential quarterfinal match this World Cup. Both players look to be at their best with Messi scoring a hat-trick and a brace vs Algeria and Austria respectively while Ronaldo roared back to form with 2 goals vs Uzbekistan after a quiet night vs Congo. How will we get to a potential quarterfinal between these two living legends? We'll explain. Messi and Argentina who have already defeated Austria and Algeria will play Jordan next Sunday and are expected to top Group J. In case of that, they'll play their

Round of 32 match against the second placed team of Group H which consists Spain, Uruguay, Cape Verde, Saudi Arabia. The toughest opponent they might face in that case might be Spain or Uruguay. If they go past one of these two teams, they will face the winners of the Round of 32 match between Australia and the second placed team of Group G which has Egypt, Iran, Belgium and New Zealand. Winning that match, they are likely to face Ronaldo's Portugal in the quarterfinals. In Portugal's case, they need to top their groups as well for the dream match-up to happen. To do that, they must defeat Colombia in

their last group match on Sunday. If they manage to pull that off, they'll face the third-placed team from one of groups D, E, I, J, L. If they cross that hurdle, they are likely to face the winner of the Round of 32 match between Switzerland and the 3rd placed team of Groups E, F, G, I, J in the Round of 16. If the manage that, they'll play Argentina and Messi in one of the quarterfinal. Can Argentina and Portugal face off in the Round of 16? There's a very faint chance that these two teams can face off in the Round of 16. That is if by a miracle both Argentina and Portugal finish second in their respective groups.

AI stocks melt down again. What's going on?

Tech stock traders can be an impatient bunch. But lately, they've grown seriously ticked off about the high price they've paid to get into the AI game without the profit boost they were expecting. The Nasdaq, a barometer for the tech industry, was set to sink another 1.2% Friday, an overhang from yet another massive sell-off in South Korea, whose Kospi index fell 5.8%. The Nasdaq has ended every day this week in the red and has fallen more than 6% from its all-time high set on June 2. Investors are right to be cautious: AI stock valuations have been flying high for several years, built mainly on the technology's promise - not the bottom-line profit growth that fuels most companies' stock price increases. It's not that AI demand

is in a slump - quite the opposite. But the industry's explosive growth has forced companies to spend and borrow tens of billions of dollars to build and develop the technology - without the immediate results to show for it. It's not exactly Big Tech's fault. AI has become an incredibly expensive endeavor. Surging demand for the technology has fueled a data center boom, requiring massive numbers of high-powered chips that semiconductor companies can't produce quickly enough. That has sent chip prices through the roof, creating a kind of K-shaped AI industry, setting chipmakers' stocks on fire - and the tech companies powering the AI models sinking. Microsoft and Meta are in a bear market after losing

a fifth of their value from their peaks. The rest of the so-called Mag 7 tech giants - Amazon, Apple, Google, Nvidia and Tesla - are in correction territory, falling at least 10% from their recent highs. To illustrate the Tale of Two AI Cities: Apple on Thursday announced it would raise prices for MacBooks and iPads because of the memory shortage, sending its stock tumbling more than 6%. Micron, the memory and storage chipmaker, surged nearly 16% Thursday after reporting stellar earnings the night before - because of the boom in demand for its semiconductors. Those market dynamics are giving the industry pause. OpenAI is considering delaying its IPO because of the recent market volatility that could make it hard for the

company to fetch its desired \$1 trillion valuation, the New York Times reported Thursday. The Kospi, half the value of which is made up of just two tech behemoths (SK Hynix and Samsung), tripped another circuit breaker Friday, leading to a 20-minute trading break. The Kospi, which has risen around 90% this year, has been volatile for quite some time. But this week has been particularly topsy-turvy - sinking 10% Tuesday, rising 5% and 3% Wednesday and Thursday, and then tumbling again Friday. The tech sector has been fueling the stock market rally over the past several years. Despite its slump, the semiconductor industry has more than made up the difference, growing to 19% of the S&P 500's value.

Serena Williams faces unknown Aussie on Wimbledon return

LONDON: American great Serena Williams will face Australian 20-year-old Maya Joint in the first round of her eagerly awaited return to Wimbledon, a potentially tricky tie for the seven-time champion playing at the tournament for the first time since 2022. Williams, 44, was handed a wildcard by organisers. Serena accepted a wildcard entry to the grass-court Grand Slam, where she'll also compete in doubles with her older sister Venus, who turned 46 last week. Serena's last appearance at Wimbledon was in 2022 when she lost in the opening round to then-115th-ranked Harmony Tan.



The 23-time Grand Slam champion last played a competitive singles match at the US Open in 2022, after which she said she was "evolving away from tennis". She will face 53rd-ranked Joint, who has won two WTA Tour titles including the grasscourt trophy at Eastbourne last year, on Tuesday. The presence of Williams, generally regarded as the greatest female player of all time with 23 Grand Slam singles titles, has electrified the Championships even before play begins. Williams, a former world number one for 319 weeks and an iconic figure far beyond the tennis world, returned to competition this month in doubles at

Queen's Club and Berlin, where she showed flashes of her old power. She lost in the first round to unheralded Harmony Tan four years ago and has not won a singles match at the All England Club since beating Barbora Strycova in the 2019 semi-finals before losing to Simona Halep in the final. Joint, 24 years her junior, is unlikely to relish facing such a decorated grass-court player in a match certain to overshadow everything else on Tuesday. Should Williams defy the odds and win two matches, she could face Swiatek in round three. Sabalenka eyes first Wimbledon crown. Top seed Aryna Sabalenka, bidding for her first title at the All England Club, begins against Serbian qualifier Teodora Kostovic, while defending champion Iga Swiatek faces American Taylor Townsend.

Third seed Swiatek was drawn in the same half as second seed Elena Rybakina, who opens against Lois Boisson of France. Sabalenka could be up for a repeat of her third-round clash last year with British favourite and 30th seed Emma Raducanu, who was drawn to face Croatia's Antonia Ruzic. French Open champion Mirra Andreeva, who starts against Magda Linette, could face Sabalenka in the quarter-finals. Coco Gauff, the American seventh seed who has struggled on the grass, has a relatively kind draw in the early rounds, starting against Germany's Tamara Korpatsch. She could be in line for a quarter-final against fellow American and fourth seed Jessica Pegula. Djokovic could face Sinner in semis. Men's defending champion and top seed Jannik Sinner will begin the Centre Court action on Monday against Serbia's Miomir Kecmanovic, while second seed and newly crowned French Open winner Alexander Zverev plays Belgium's Alexander Blockx. Kecmanovic will be a tough first hurdle for Sinner, who arrives at Wimbledon with question marks over his stamina and no grasscourt warm-up tournaments. He lost from two sets up against Argentina's Juan Manuel Cerundolo in the French Open second round. Sinner starts as the overwhelming favourite to defend his title, however, especially as big rival Carlos Alcaraz is out injured. His predicted quarter-final opponent is eighth seed Daniil Medvedev, although the Russian could be in danger in the first round against former runner-up Marin Cilic. Friday's draw threw up several intriguing men's first-round clashes, with unseeded British hope Jack Draper taking on American sixth seed Taylor Fritz and 41-year-old Swiss veteran Stan Wawrinka, playing his last Wimbledon, against former runner-up Matteo Berrettini. Novak Djokovic, seeking an unprecedented 25th Grand Slam singles title at the age of 39, plays China's Wu Yibing in the first round and could meet Sinner in the semi-finals.

Turkiye beat US with stoppage-time goal in World Cup dead rubber

NEW JERSEY: Turkiye beat a heavily changed United States 3-2 with a late Kaan Ayhan winner in an action-packed dead-rubber clash that gave the 2026 World Cup cohosts their sternest test so far ahead of the knockout rounds. Already crowned the Group D winners, the US arrived in Los Angeles seeking to extend a perfect start with a third win, but with more than an eye on next Wednesday's last-32 meeting against Bosnia and Herzegovina. For Turkiye, already eliminated and without even a goal after disastrous losses to Paraguay and Australia, the only objective was to restore some pride. Despite the low stakes and substantially reshuffled lineups for both teams, a packed Los Angeles Stadium was in a deafening mood. For the third game running, the US got off to a dream start. One of nine changes, backup centre-back Austin Trusty, was unmarked at

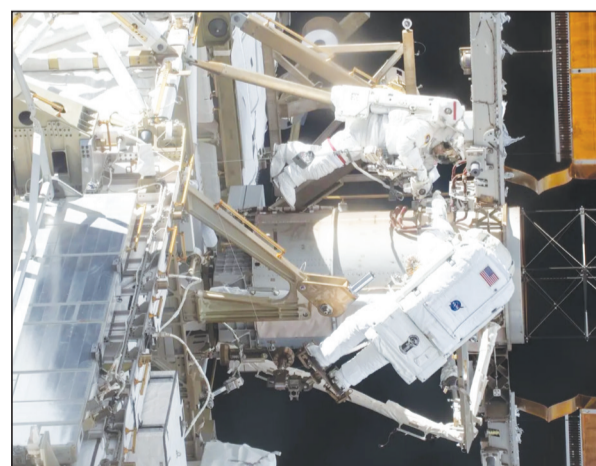
the far post from a US corner, given time to cushion the ball with his left foot, then blast it home. It was the Celtic defender's first international goal, and - at just under three minutes - the second-fastest by the US at a World Cup. But Turkiye did not surrender. Having not scored in 62 efforts across their first two games, it was the 63rd time lucky for the Turks, and their star man, Arda Guler. The Real Madrid forward duped Mark McKenzie with a clever dummy, allowing the ball to run down the right flank to Baris Alper Yilmaz. Yilmaz crossed it back to Guler, who smashed it past Matt Turner to equalise in the 10th minute. With Brad Pitt and Edward Norton among the Hollywood crowd, the game threatened to become a fight club, as Turkiye's bench rushed the field to protest a foul by the combative Sebastian Berhalter, who earned a yellow. The

Americans thought they had restored the lead, with McKenzie the second US centre-back to put the ball in the net. But his sharp response to Ricardo Pepi's saved shot was ruled offside. In the 31st minute, the US found themselves behind for the first time this World Cup. Guler spotted Eren Elmalili's overlapping run, feeding it to the wing-back, who cut the ball back from the left byline to Yilmaz, who steered it beyond the keeper. 'Captain America' returns. The half-time break proved the perfect tonic for the US. In the 49th minute, they were back level from a long throw by McKenzie. The ball was cleared by Turkiye only as far as Berhalter, who did well to smash his shot low into the bottom corner. The crowd erupted again just before the hour mark as Mauricio Pochettino sent on Christian Pulisic, undoubtedly the US's big-

gest star, who will shoulder much of the cohosts' hopes of a deep run into the knockouts. Nicknamed "Captain America", Pulisic earned his own round of "USA" chants, having not appeared since aggravating an injury in the first half of the opening win against Paraguay two weeks ago. Pulisic immediately looked lively, twice having his effort blocked from close range after darting runs from the left. He knew less about a ball that looped off his shin onto the post. Turkiye began to knock on the door again. A Yildiz effort curled inches wide in the 72nd minute. And deep into stoppage time, Ayhan spoiled the US party, slamming the ball home from close range. Turkiye were jubilant, while the American players clustered in a circle after the final whistle, seemingly determined not to let the gut punch spoil a campaign that had been off to a flying start.

ISS repair spacewalk highlights concerns about station health

NASA astronauts on the International Space Station are preparing for a spacewalk to repair a robotic arm as safety advisers raise concerns about the long-term health of the station and space-suits. Astronauts Jessica Meir and Chris Williams are scheduled to perform a spacewalk June 30 in which they will replace a joint in the Canadarm2 robotic arm. That work will be the sole task of the spacewalk, scheduled to last six and a half hours. Bill Spetch, NASA ISS operations and integration manager, said during a June 25 briefing that the arm did not move as expected, with an elevated motor current, during routine operations last month. Engineers determined that a wrist joint was malfunctioning, requiring replacement using a spare joint already on the station. "Systems like Canadarm2 were designed from the beginning with replaceable components and were planned with maintenance in mind, and this is no exception," he said. The upcoming spacewalk, the 280th in the history of the ISS program, is the first in a series expected over the next several months. Three



more are planned, starting as soon as August, to install components for a new solar array, fix electrical jumpers and replace a communications antenna. The repairs come as the station enters its final years, with NASA still working toward a planned 2030 retirement date. The health of the station has been a focus of the Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel, or ASAP, NASA's independent safety committee. "The management of critical spares and resupply items has been a challenge for the aging station," Susan Helms, chair of the committee and a former astronaut, said at a June 22 meeting of

the panel. She said the committee was concerned NASA will try to ramp down funding for ISS operations ahead of its retirement. "Temptation to reduce the ISS budget looms, but the panel would caution that such temptations should be disregarded," she said. "As budgets decline, it is increasingly difficult for NASA to ensure the ISS risks remain manageable for day-to-day operations with enough contingency margins." She praised NASA ISS officials for "an outstanding job" of managing risks, but added, "The margin to do so is now reduced to alarming levels." Those concerns

extended to the spacesuits worn on ISS spacewalks, formally known as Extravehicular Mobility Units, or EMUs. "Supply chain issues have exacerbated the EMU risk due to aging hardware, although there is a robust life-extension plan that is ongoing," Helms said, noting there were four operational suits currently on the station. At the spacewalk briefing, Spetch downplayed concerns about spacesuits and the overall health of the station. "We have four great suits on board right now," he said, with a fifth going to the station this fall. "I think we're in great shape right now for where our suits are, and we continue to work very closely with the team that maintains those suits to address anything that we see coming." He said there are extensive spare parts available for ISS systems, including Canadarm2, which is critical to station operations. "There's not a time where we go, say, 'Hey, we're just done repairing the arm,'" he said. "Overall, the arm is critical for station operations and continued maintenance of it through to the end of life." ASAP also discussed at its meeting the June 5 incident.