



SACHIN TENDULKAR WROTE: "SADDENED TO HEAR ABOUT THE TRAGIC DEMISE OF KOBE Bryant, his daughter Gianna & others on-board the helicopter. My condolences to his family, friends and fans across the world."

Sporting stars who died in air crashes



LONDON: The plane carrying members of Manchester United's 'Busby Babes' crashed in Germany as it returned from a European Cup match in Belgrade. Eight players died following the incident as well as three staff members.

Matty Busby's side went on to win the trophy in 1968 and a passage under United's Old Trafford stadium was named the 'Munich Tunnel' on the 50th anniversary of the accident.

1961: US Figure Skating
All 18 athletes in the US figure skating team lost their lives on their way to Prague for the World Championships as their aircraft crashed on approach to an airport in Brussels.

The competition was cancelled and the whole squad and their coaches were inducted into the US Skating Hall of Fame in January 2011.

2016: Chapecoense
A charter flight from Bolivia to Colombia carrying 77 people claimed the lives of 19 members of the Brazilian side's squad travelling to the first leg of the Copa Sudamericana final.

The title was awarded to the club following a request from their opponents Atletico Nacional.

Spanish club Barcelona organised a friendly against Chapecoense less than a year later to raise funds as one of the survivors Alan Ruschel played his first match since the incident.

2018: Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha
Leicester City owner Vichai was killed as the helicopter carrying him and four other people crashed outside the club's King Power stadium hours after a league game.

Thousands of Foxes supporters took part in a walk in remembrance of the victims before their next match and the Thai billionaire's son Aiyawatt took over control of the English side.

2019: Emiliano Sala The Argentinian striker was travelling by plane from Nantes to Wales to finalise a move to then Premier League club Cardiff City when his aircraft crashed in the English Channel.

There are still unresolved issues surrounding the player's death, such as the payment of the 17 million euros (\$18.85 million) fee agreed for his transfer.

Tokyo 2020 to power Olympic torch with hydrogen for first time

TOKYO (REUTERS): Hydrogen will be used for the first time to power the Olympic torch during its journey through Japan, organisers said on Monday, as part of Tokyo 2020's efforts to hold an environmentally friendly Games. Organisers aim to offset all carbon emissions generated during the Games and also use the Olympics to boost awareness of environmental issues in Japan.

The Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee said certain stages of the torch relay will use hydrogen, which emits no carbon dioxide when it is burned, and it will also fuel the ceremonial Olympic Cauldron featuring in the Games' opening and closing ceremonies.

Hydrogen will be used to power the torch on its journey through the prefectures of Fukushima and Aichi, as well as parts of Tokyo, with gas used in other stages of the relay.

"During its preparations for the Games, Tokyo 2020 has consistently promoted energy conservation and the use of renewable energy with the aim of supporting the realisation of a carbon-neutral society," the organisers said in a statement. About 500 hydrogen-powered fuel cell vehicles will also be used during the Olympics, which run from July 24 to Aug. 9.

Other initiatives to cut the environmental impact of the Games include beds made from recyclable cardboard in the athletes' village, Olympic medals made from recycled consumer electronics and the torches themselves, formed of aluminium waste.

The torch relay begins in Fukushima on March 26 and will visit all 47 of Japan's prefectures ahead of the July 24 opening ceremony.



LONDON: Real Madrid moved top of La Liga for the first time since October on Sunday after grinding out a 1-0 win away at Real Valladolid to make Barcelona pay for their surprise defeat to Valencia.

side pull three points ahead of Barca, whose 2-0 loss away at the Mestalla on Saturday under new coach Quique Setien could prove a turning point in a nip-and-tuck title race.

"Nothing changes, we are happy

a goalless home draw with Leganes earlier on Sunday, with a cushion next weekend, not to mention on the back of a 19-game unbeaten run.

"We are top of the table again after being there a long time ago," said cap-

As Barcelona pursue a more entertaining style of football under Setien, Madrid march on, gaining momentum with wins that based largely on solidity and a stubborn defence. "Defensively what we are

REAL MADRID GO TOP WITH GRITTY WIN OVER VALLADOLID

It is 16 weeks since Madrid last finished a round top of the pile and it looked like a scrappy contest at the Jose Zorrilla would end goalless until Nacho Hernandez headed in the winner with 12 minutes remaining.

Victory means Zinedine Zidane's

with the win," said Zidane. "There are 16 games left and we will have to fight until the end if we want something. Nothing changes."

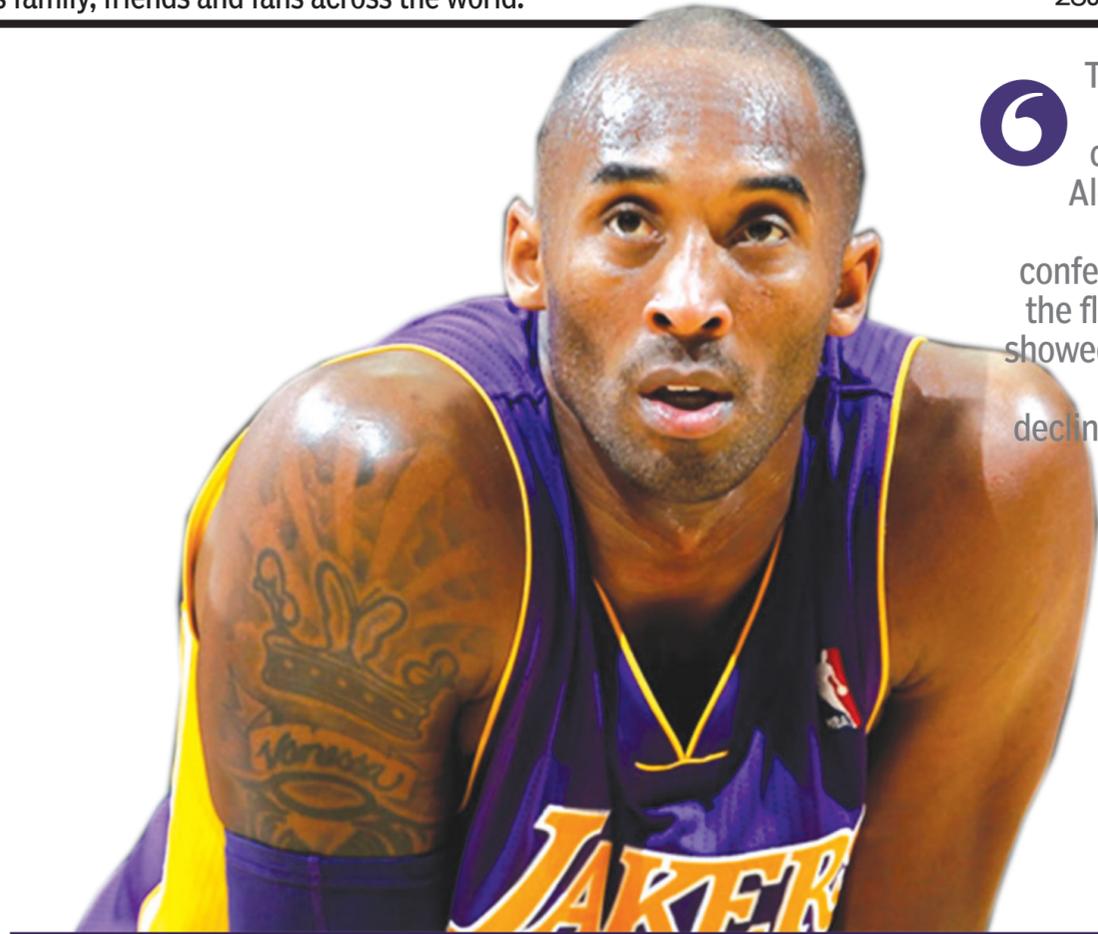
Madrid now have the luxury of hosting their struggling city rivals Atletico Madrid, who are 10 points back after

tain Sergio Ramos. "We have to keep going."

That streak included them drawing a game they arguably should have won at Camp Nou in December and then lifting the Spanish Super Cup earlier this month in Saudi Arabia.

doing we are doing very well, it is our strength," said Zidane.

Their form has been even more impressive given the absence of key players, with Eden Hazard, Karim Benzema and Gareth Bale starting only four times together this season.



KOBE BRYANT KILLED IN HELICOPTER CRASH

CALABASAS, CALIF. (REUTERS): Kobe Bryant, one of the NBA's all-time greatest players and an athlete of global renown, was killed at age 41 on Sunday in a helicopter crash near Los Angeles along with his 13-year-old daughter and seven on board, officials said.

Bryant rocketed to fame as an 18-year-old rookie and played 20 years for the Los

Angeles Lakers, 18 as an all-star forward, and won five NBA championships.

His death sent shockwaves through the National Basketball Association, which he helped propel to international prominence, and stunned fans around the world.

The cause of the crash was unknown, and an investigation by the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transporta-

tion Safety Board could take months.

Bryant was known since his playing days to travel frequently by helicopter to avoid the Los Angeles area's notorious traffic.

His Sikorsky S-76 craft went down in low clouds and foggy weather shortly before 10 a.m. (1800 GMT) in hilly terrain just outside Calabasas, California, about 40 miles (65 km) northwest of central Los Angeles,

sparking a brush fire, officials said.

"There were no survivors," county sheriff Alex Villanueva told a news conference, saying the flight manifest showed nine people on board. He declined to identify them.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver confirmed Bryant and his daughter Gianna were among those killed, and sent condolences to Bryant's wife, Vanessa.

Kohli, Tendulkar, Messi, Ronaldo, Trump, Obama Lead Tributes for Kobe Bryant

LONDON: Sports icons took to social media to offer their condolences on the demise of basketball legend Kobe Bryant.

Sachin Tendulkar wrote: "Saddened to hear about the tragic demise of Kobe Bryant, his daughter Gianna & others on-board the helicopter. My condolences to his family, friends and fans across the world."

Lionel Messi posted a picture of Bryant in his Los Angeles Lakers jersey on Instagram along and wrote: "I have no words...all my love for Kobe's family and friends. It was a pleasure to meet you and share good times together. You were a genius like few others."

Ronaldo also posted a picture of Bryant and said: "So sad to hear the heartbreaking news of the deaths of Kobe and his daughter Gianna.

Kobe was a true legend and inspiration to so many. Sending my condolences to his family and friends and the families of all who lost their lives in the crash. RIP Legend."

"Reports are that basketball great Kobe Bryant and three others have been killed in a helicopter crash in California. That is terrible news!" tweeted Trump.

Trump and former U.S. President Barack Obama agree on little but were united in their grief over the five-time NBA champion's untimely passing.

"Kobe was a legend on the court and just getting started in what would have been just as meaningful a second act. To lose Gianna is even more heartbreaking to us as parents," Obama wrote on Twitter.

Hours later, inside the arena, musicians and performers paid tribute to Bryant from the stage of the Grammy Awards.

Bryant finished his playing career as the Lakers' all-time leading points scorer, and is fourth on the NBA's all-time list with 33,643 points. He won gold for the US at the 2008 and 2012 Olympics.

Bryant also has an Academy Award to his name for his animated short film "Dear Basketball" in 2018.

