What to WATCH

Maasranga TV & STAR Cricket
ICC Champions Trophy
England v India
Final
Live from 3:30pm

Maasranga TV & STAR Sports
FIFA Confederations Cup
Nigeria v Spain
Live from 1:00am (Monday)

ESPN
FIFA Confederations Cup
Uruguay v Tahiti
Live from 1:00am (Monday)

PHOTO: REUTERS

Usain Bolt crosses the finish line first to win the men's 100m final of the JAAA National Senior Trials on Friday.

Courtois to stay at Atletico

AFP, *Madrid*

Belgian international goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois will spend a third season on loan at Atletico Madrid after the Spanish side announced they had reached an agreement with his parent club Chelsea.

"Thibaut Courtois will return to Atletico Madrid next season after an agreement was reached between our club and Chelsea for him to play on loan for another year," said a statement on Atletico's website on Saturday.

Courtois has played 98 times during his previous two seasons with Atletico and was instrumental as they lifted the Copa del Rey this season and the Europa League in 2011/12.

The 21-year-old also won the Zamora award for the goalkeeper that conceded the fewest number of goals in La Liga this season as he was beaten just 29 times in 37 league appearances.

And he is looking forward to a new challenge with Atletico as they also qualified for the Champions League for the first time in four years this season.

"I am very happy because it was what I wanted," he said. "I have always said that I wanted to continue at Atletico next season and take part in such an important competition as the Champions League."

Easily Bolt-s

REUTERS, *Kingston*

World record holder and Olympic champion Usain Bolt put in a workmanlike display to win the 100 metres on Friday at the Jamaican trials for the world championships.

Bolt recovered from a slow start to catch Nickel Ashmeade at the 50-metre mark and clocked a time of 9.94 seconds after easing off over the last 10 metres.

The sub-10 second run was the 35th of his career.

"It was good to win ... I'm not too worried about the time as I have one solid month to work on getting ready for Russia," Bolt told Reuters.

"The start wasn't perfect, but the drive phase was better than it was when I lost to (Justin) Gatlin and then the turbo chipped in," the 2009 world champion added, noting that coach Glen Mills advised him to do just enough to win.

Kemar Bailey-Cole sneaked up to take second in 9.98, while Ashmeade, who made the 200m final at the 2011 world championships, placed third in 9.99.

In the surprise of the trials, former world record holder Asafa Powell failed to fire in his third straight race in two nights, finishing seventh in 10.22.

Bolt expressed sympathy for Powell, who has struggled with hamstring troubles this season.

"Asafa has been through a lot this season and I was surprised he ran at these trials," the six-time Olympic gold medallist said.

"He will just have come again on the European circuit."

Olympic double sprint silver medallist Yohan Blake will be the fourth Jamaican in the men's 100m in Russia by virtue of being the defending world champion.

In the absence of two-time Olympic champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, the women's title went to 2008 Beijing silver medallist Kerron Stewart in 10.94.

"I knew as long as I executed a good race, I would win." Stewart told Reuters. "I have to give all credit to God (because) when everybody counted me out, he got me through."

Romario bats against FIFA

REUTERS, *Brasilia*

Former Brazil forward Romario has described FIFA as "the real president of Brazil" and said the money spent on stadiums for the 2014 World Cup could have been used to build thousands of new schools.

Romario, who spearheaded Brazil's attack when they won the 1994 World Cup and is now a congressman, said Brazil had spent more than twice as much on hosting the World Cup as Germany did in 2006 and South Africa four years later.

"That is taking the piss," he said in a video posted the web sites of several Brazilian newspapers. "It's taking the piss with our money, with the public's money, it's a lack of respect, a lack of scruples."

Romario, who appeared unshaven and wearing a sleeveless top, said the money spent on stadiums so far was enough to provide "8,000 new schools, 39,000 school buses or 28,000 sports courts in the whole country".

Brazil has been hit by a wave of nationwide protests as it stages the eight-team Confederations Cup, which is considered a dry run for next year's World Cup. The amount of money spent on stadiums is among the protestors' many grievances.

The World Cup will be staged in 12 stadiums, either built from scratch or completely refurbished. Brazil is spending around 28 billion reais ($12.9 billion) on the event.

"The money spent on the Mane Garrincha stadium in Brasilia could be used to build 150,000 houses for low income families," said Romario, who said he was speaking as "Romario the Brazilian" rather than as a footballer or politician.

"But no, we spent 1.5 billion reais on a stadium. Is it beautiful? Yes. Is it practical? Not really. But another thing is that after the Confederations Cup, some things will have to be re-done, because they didn't work out, and a few new things will have to be added for the World Cup. "The real president of our country is FIFA," he added.

"FIFA comes to our country and sets up a state within a state. "FIFA will make a profit of four billion reais which should provide one billion in tax, but they will not pay anything."

Liverpool rope in Alberto

AFP, *London*

Liverpool announced on Saturday the signing of young Spanish striker Luis Alberto from Sevilla on a long-term contract,

The 20-year-old, who has been capped at several levels of youth football by Spain, completed the deal after passing a medical although international clearance has still to be given.

Alberto spent last season on loan with Barcelona B, where he scored 11 goals and collected 17 assists in 38 appearances.

"We are all delighted that Luis has decided to join Liverpool," manager Brendan Rodgers said.

"He has the correct footballing profile and mentality to be a Liverpool player.

"I look forward to working with him to develop his talent and he joins a group of young exciting players at our club."

Meanwhile, Liverpool have agreed a deal with Sunderland for goalkeeper Simon Mignolet and the Belgium international will sign for the Merseyside club early next week for nine million pounds ($13.85 million), British media reported on Saturday.

At my peak: Djokovic

AFP, *Paris*

Novak Djokovic believes he is at the peak of his powers as he targets a second Wimbledon title with his confidence buoyed by avoiding Roger Federer, Andy Murray and Rafael Nadal in the draw.

The world number one and top seed captured the All England Club title in 2011 before Federer reclaimed it in 2012 for the Swiss star's seventh triumph.

"I believe I'm at the peak of my career and playing really good tennis," said the 26-year-old Serb.

Djokovic goes into his ninth Wimbledon having opted not to play a grasscourt warm-up following his epic five-set semi-final loss to Nadal at the French Open.

But he insists that shattering defeat -- which left him still searching for an elusive Roland Garros title -- can only make him stronger for Wimbledon.

"I wanted the title so much, but I don't think it's gonna take a toll on me because I have been in these particular situations before," he said.

"So hopefully I can get inspired again to play my best tennis in Wimbledon."

Djokovic enjoyed the luck of the draw on Friday when Federer, seeking a record eighth Wimbledon title, two-time winner Nadal, and Murray, the 2012 runner-up, were all placed in the opposite half of the draw.

That means Djokovic can only face one of those rivals and not before the final.

"It is the one I always dreamed of winning and it was the highlight of my career. I love playing in Wimbledon -- the grass is the most special surface in our sport," he said.

Djokovic endured a light-hearted build-up to Wimbledon, which starts on Monday, by playing an exhibition at Stoke Park on the edge of London.

In one match, he and Bulgarian star Grigor Dimitrov performed tongue-in-cheek impressions of Maria Sharapova's on-court routine.

By Friday evening, the video had been viewed more than 300,000 times on YouTube.

Sharapova, the 2004 Wimbledon champion and the girlfriend of Dimitrov, was also warming up at the plush Hurlingham Club in the capital.

"Look at these two clowns," tweeted the Russian in response.

But there is a serious side to Djokovic, of course.

During the French Open, he was heartbroken by the news that his childhood coach Jelena Gencic had passed away.

He often described Gencic as his "second mother".

"It's life. I cannot look at it on the negative side," the Serb told the Daily Telegraph.

"Yes, I did have some difficulties handling this kind of unexpected moments in my life. But I had to handle it, and I think I handled it really well, because it was in the middle of Roland Garros, and I managed to get to the semi-final and play a thrilling match against Rafa.

"I cannot say that I overcame that kind of grief that I felt inside myself. It's still there because it's still fresh. But I also try to focus on the nice memories that I had with her."

Spain set for top spot

AFP, *Fortaleza*

Buoyed by their record-breaking 10-0 rout of Tahiti at the Confederations Cup, Spain approach Sunday's final Group B fixture against Nigeria needing just a point to secure a place in the semi-finals.

Thursday's thrashing of the Pacific islanders made Spain the first team to win a game by a 10-goal margin at the finals of a FIFA tournament, and only the second to score 10 after Hungary's 10-1 thrashing of El Salvador at the 1982 World Cup.

Fernando Torres scored four goals, and David Villa three, but perhaps the most pleasing aspect for coach Vicente del Bosque was the fact he was able to rest almost his entire first-choice starting XI.

Of the team that began the opening 2-1 win over Uruguay, only centre-back Sergio Ramos kept his place, and the likes of Xavi, Andres Iniesta and Cesc Fabregas could all return against Nigeria.

Del Bosque's shrewd squad management was a key feature of Spain's successes at the 2010 World Cup and Euro 2012, and midfielder David Silva says rotation is something the players fully accept.

"We're always ready to step up when we get the chance," said the Manchester City midfielder, who scored twice in the Tahiti romp.

Spain's strong start to the tournament means they go into Sunday's match at Fortaleza's Estadio Castelao within touching distance of the last four.

Although they require a point to make sure of a semi-final place, they would need to lose to Nigeria by at least four goals to stand any chance of being overhauled.

The situation is rather more taxing for Stephen Keshi's Nigeria, who were beaten 2-1 by Uruguay in Salvador on Thursday and enter Sunday's game level on points with the South American champions.

If Uruguay, as expected, record a handsome win over Tahiti, Nigeria will only be able to reach the last four with a victory over the world and European champions, but coach Keshi says he has not given up hope.

"Everything is achievable," he said.

"It depends how much desire you have in you, how much you want it, and how much luck you've got on your side. I can't question the boys' commitment or loyalty."

Keshi's plans for the game have been complicated by an injury to AC Milan forward Nnamdi Oduamadi, scorer of a hat-trick in the 6-1 win over Tahiti, who had to come off against Uruguay with an apparent ankle injury.

Del Bosque is expected to recall his leading lights, but Torres and Villa will each hope they have done enough to be selected ahead of Valencia striker Roberto Soldado.

The two sides have met before just once, in a group game at the 1998 World Cup in France, when Nigeria, then Olympic champions, claimed a 3-2 win that sowed the seeds of the Spaniards' group-phase elimination.

It remains the only time Spain have lost to African opposition, but the balance of power in international football has tilted sharply since then.

While Nigeria saw an 18-game unbeaten run come to an end against Uruguay, Spain have not lost at a tournament since a shock defeat by Switzerland in the opening game of the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

Isco to Madrid?

AFP, *Madrid*

Real Madrid have reached an agreement with Malaga for the transfer of 21-year-old Spanish international Isco, according to various media outlets in Spain on Saturday.

Madrid are expected to spent 30 million euros ($39.6 million, £25.6 million) for the midfielder who has become one of Europe's hottest prospects thanks to his performances this season.

"The whites and Malaga reached an agreement in principle for the player yesterday," said Madrid sports daily AS.

"With just a few final details of the playmaker's contract to be finished, he will be a Madrid player for the next five seasons.

"The agreement will be made official next week with the player to be presented at the start of July."

Isco was Malaga's shining light with three goals as the Andalusians reached the Champions League quarter-finals in their first ever participation in the competition and was also on target three times as Spain retained their U-21 Euros tile in Israel earlier this month.

The former Valencia man also admitted last week to already having received offers from Madrid and Manchester City, where he could have rejoined former Malaga boss Manuel Pellegrini.

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