

What to WATCH

STAR SPORTS1

England v India

Second Test, Day 3

Live from 4:00pm

TEN CRICKET

Sri Lanka v South Africa

First Test, Day 4

Live from 10:30am

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Magpies land Janmaat

AFP, London

Newcastle landed Feyenoord defender Daryl Janmaat as an immediate replacement for Mathieu Debuchy following the French right-back's move to Arsenal on Thursday.

Netherlands international Janmaat is reported to have cost £6 million (\$10.2 million, 7.5 million euros), with the official announcement of his arrival at the Premier League club timed to coincide with Debuchy's departure.

The 24-year-old, who underwent a medical on Tyneside earlier this week, has signed a six-year contract and will replace Debuchy as the club's first-choice right-back.

Janmaat, who has just returned from the World Cup finals in Brazil, said: "Newcastle is a fantastic club, with a big history and a great stadium. I have also been told all about how great the fans are.

"This is the perfect move for me, and I am really looking forward to being with the team and getting started here at Newcastle. I think we are going to have a great season."

Magpies boss Alan Pardew added: "He is the perfect example of a modern full-back: someone who is good defensively, but offers a real threat going forward as well.

"Daryl had an excellent World Cup and we are looking forward to him continuing that form for Newcastle."

Janmaat becomes Newcastle's sixth close-season signing, with owner Mike Ashley having handed Pardew the financial backing to carry out a major overhaul of his squad.

He is the third new arrival this week following Montpellier midfielder Remy Cabella and Monaco striker Emmanuel Riviere, and he is unlikely to be the last with the capture of another frontman a priority.



Lahm ends int'l career

AFP, Berlin

Germany captain Philipp Lahm on Friday ended his international career just five days after leading his country to a World Cup triumph in Brazil.

Tributes immediately poured in for the 30-year-old Bayern Munich full back who has played 113 games for Germany.

His career, already packed with Champions League and Bundesliga titles, culminated in Sunday's 1-0 victory over Argentina that made Lahm only the 20th World Cup winning captain.

He showed off the World Cup to an estimated 500,000 people who gave the team a heroes' welcome in Berlin on Tuesday.

The international retirement, confirmed by Lahm's agent Roman Grill, to the SID sports news agency, a subsidiary of AFP, took Germany by surprise.

But the German Football Federation (DFB) confirmed that it would have to find a new captain.

"It's the right time for me (after the title)," Grill quoted Lahm as saying.

Grill said Lahm had been considering all season ending his international playing days.

"I made the decision that the World Cup in Brazil would be my final tournament," Lahm added.

FACTFILE

Age: 30

Height: 1.70m (5 feet 7 inches)

Position: Full back/defensive midfielder

Senior international debut: v Croatia (2-1), February 18, 2004

Last international appearance: v Argentina World Cup final, July 13, 2014 (Germany 1-0 aet)

International caps: 113

International goals: 5

Clubs: Bayern Munich 1995-to date (on loan to VfB Stuttgart 2003-2005)

Honours: International -- World Cup (2014), third place (2006, 2010). European Championships: finalist (2008), semi-final (2012)

Club -- Champions League (2013), 2 finals (2010, 2012); Club World Cup (2013); European Supercup (2013); German Championships (2006, 2008, 2010, 2013, 2014); German Cups (2006, 2008, 2010, 2013, 2014); German

Lahm, one of the best defenders of his generation, has been Germany's captain since 2010.

He has made himself the undisputed leader of the German team and was a close confidant of coach Joachim Loew during the World Cup campaign.

He said that he was leaving "in perfect harmony" with the DFB.

Lahm informed Loew of his decision to retire over breakfast on the morning after their World Cup triumph.

DFB president Wolfgang Niersbach was informed of Lahm's decision on Friday morning. "I thanked him for 10 years of superb work together," said Lahm.

Niersbach said that he "quickly understood that there was no question of making him (Lahm) change his mind".

He praised Lahm as "not only an extraordinary player but also an absolute role model".

"I thanked him for all that he had contributed," added Niersbach.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel also paid tribute to the retiring skipper.

"I would like to express (to Lahm) my greatest respect for all he has done for the national team," Merkel told a press conference in Berlin.

Lahm is the fourth captain of the German team to lift the World Cup trophy after Fritz Walter (1954), Franz Beckenbauer (1974) and Lothar Matthaeus (1990).

The full-back, who will continue playing club football for Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich, made his international debut in 2004 against Croatia.

His contract with Bayern runs until

KROOS up for Real challenge

AFP, Madrid

Toni Kroos on Thursday looked forward to a trophy-laden time with Real Madrid after signing from Bayern Munich on a six-year deal just days after winning the World Cup with Germany.

"I am here to win titles. That is how it has always been in my career," said the 24-year-old playmaker as he was presented to thousands of fans and media at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium.

"When I started at Bayern Munich the only option was to win, and now it is the same," he added.

"I know that I am at a very successful club and I am going to do my bit to make sure that continues to be the case."

Kroos had an outstanding World Cup, scoring two goals in two minutes in the 7-1 semi-final rout of Brazil before helping Germany overcome Argentina 1-0 after extra time in Sunday's final.

Spanish media said Real and Bayern agreed a deal worth between 25 million and 30 million euros (\$33-\$40 million) for Kroos, who had a year left on his contract in Bavaria.

Kroos, who sported the number eight jersey at his unveiling, denied that a disagreement with Bayern coach Pep Guardiola was behind his decision to leave the Bundesliga champions.

He said: "I had already been at Bayern for a long time and have won everything there, so I thought a new step would do me good."

The two clubs said the official transfer fee would remain secret, but the arrival of Kroos could hasten the departure from Madrid of his fellow German Sami Khedira, who now risks losing his midfield place and has been linked with Arsenal.

"A magnificent player has arrived, as he showed at the World Cup, where he was one of the best in the competition," said Madrid president Florentino Perez.

"His great performances in recent weeks do not come as a surprise, but as confirmation that we had chosen the right player."

Earlier, a Bayern statement confirmed they had agreed a deal with Real and that Kroos had signed a six-year contract.

"The two clubs have agreed to remain silent about the transfer fee," it said.

"We thank Toni Kroos for his time at Munich," said Bayern chief executive Karl-Heinz Rummenigge. "We have experienced great successes with him."

Kroos arrives at the Santiago Bernabeu with 11 trophies already on his CV, the World Cup the jewel in a collection including the 2013 Champions League, last season's Bundesliga title and the Club World Cup.

He joined Bayern as a teenager in 2007, making his first-team debut at the age of 17 and becoming a regular after an 18-month loan spell at Bundesliga rivals Bayer Leverkusen.

Del Bosque to stay on as Spain coach

AFP, Madrid

Vicente del Bosque on Thursday confirmed his intention to stay on as coach of Spain, despite their disappointing performance at the World Cup in Brazil.

"I have been in contact with the Federation president (Angel Maria Villar) as well as the secretary general (Jorge Perez) and I think we are a stable Federation and the last six years as a whole have counted for more than the last two games that eliminated us from the World Cup," del Bosque said at a football school in his home city of Salamanca.

Of the Federation (RFEF), he added: "They valued my work and we are going to carry on as always."

Del Bosque's contract runs through to the end of the European Championship in France in 2016 and his announcement will end speculation that had been mounting since Spain were knocked out of the World Cup following back-to-back defeats against the Netherlands and Chile.

After Spain bowed out of the tournament in Brazil by beating Australia 3-0, he said: "We will look for the best decision for our football, with sense and without drama."

Del Bosque, 63, had previously led Spain to glory at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa and at Euro 2012.

MU training base too windy

AFP, Manchester

New Manchester United manager Louis van Gaal wants to see changes made to the club's plush Carrington training ground because he claims it is too windy.

"The facility needs a little more intimacy," said Van Gaal of the site to the west of the city.

"I have asked already because now it's an open field but there is always wind.

"And wind is not always the friend of the players. It's not always the friend of the ball and so we have to do something about that. But the facilities are fantastic."

Valdivia calls time on Chile

AFP, Santiago

Chilean playmaker Jorge Valdivia has announced his international retirement after competing with his country in the World Cup in Brazil.

The 30-year-old made the announcement on his Twitter account without giving any details.

"I've been asked if I've decided to quit the national side and the answer is yes," said Valdivia.

"Thank you for everything and sorry for the mistakes I've made. From today I'm on the same side as you, as a fan, with all my best wishes for my teammates and for Chile."

Valdivia, who has 60 caps for the national side, only played a pool match at the World Cup in Brazil scoring one goal in a 3-1 win over Australia.

A Palmeiras player since 2006, he spent two seasons with Al Ain from 2008-2010, and will return to the United Arab Emirates to play with Dibba Al Fujairah next season.

Valdivia leaves the national side less than a year before the Copa America, which will be played in Chile.

Arsenal snap up Debuchy

AFP, London

Arsenal completed their swoop for France defender Mathieu Debuchy from Newcastle United on Thursday in a deal reported to be worth around 15 million euros.

Debuchy has been a long-term target for Arsene Wenger and the Gunners' manager finally got his man as the right-back put pen to paper on a long-term contract.

The 28-year-old, who was part of the French squad which reached the World Cup quarter-finals, is the ideal replacement for compatriot Bacary Sagna, who left Arsenal to join Premier League Manchester City on a free transfer last month.

Debuchy, who is reported to have cost the Gunners around £12 million (\$20.5 million, 15.1 million euros), becomes Arsenal's second signing since the end of last season following the £30 million arrival of Chile winger Alexis Sanchez from Barcelona.

"We are delighted to welcome Mathieu Debuchy to Arsenal," Wenger told the club's website.

"He has shown he can perform at the highest level with his club sides and also for France.

"He is a quality defender who has good Premier League experience and I'm confident he will fit in very well with us."

Debuchy featured 46 times during an 18-month spell at Newcastle after spending the first nine years of his career with French side Lille.

He helped Lille to a league and cup double in 2010-11.

His performances also earned him his international debut against Albania in October 2011 and he now has 25 caps for France.

Debuchy will join up with his new team-mates soon for pre-season preparations and is expected to make his debut at the Emirates Cup in the first weekend of August.

He admitted playing in the Champions League was a major incentive to join Arsenal.

"I'm very proud to be joining a great club like Arsenal and to wear its colours, it's one of the biggest clubs in the whole world," Debuchy said.

"I'm looking forward to working with Arsene Wenger and to helping the team build on last season's FA Cup success.

"Playing again in the Champions League is a big excitement for me and I will do my best to help Arsenal compete for trophies."



Scholastica football team that will participate in the Dana Cup to be held in Denmark from 21-26 July pose for a picture in their campus yesterday.

Van Gaal faces balancing act

AFP, Manchester

Louis van Gaal claims balancing Manchester United's commercial ambitions with their desire for success on the field will be one of his biggest challenges at Old Trafford.

Van Gaal was officially unveiled as United's new manager at Old Trafford on Thursday and, speaking at his first press conference, the Dutchman emphasised that he understood the extra responsibilities that come with managing a club of United's global stature.

United will shortly undertake a pre-season tour of the United States and, without European football next season, the Premier League giants may be tempted to play exhibition friendly

matches during the quiet periods of the season to generate extra revenue.

"This club is also guided in the commercial way and we have to fulfil that also," Van Gaal said.

"That is not always possible, to fulfil the commercial expectations or the football expectations. That is my biggest challenge after two weeks.

"Maybe it will change after the US tour. I don't know, but I don't think so. This is the biggest club because it is known worldwide.

"It's a club that is well known all over the world. When I was in China, or now in Brazil people are talking about Manchester United. That's the difference.

"There is a lot of expectation, but also a great challenge because of that and therefore I have chosen this club."

Van Gaal confirmed he will not hesitate to speak to former United

manager Alex Ferguson, with whom he already has a solid relationship and a great admiration, about the club.

"Sir Alex has a strong philosophy. He was always confirming that because he won a lot of titles with Manchester United," Van Gaal said.

"I think he has a good philosophy. I hope I can do that and start with philosophy.

"He called me to congratulate me and when we have spoken about a coffee to drink, or to eat. We were always invited to the elite forum of UEFA. We always had a glass of wine.

"So we know each other very well and I shall drink coffee and drink wine with him. Maybe the better wine I can imagine!"

Van Gaal insisted that his initial remit at Old Trafford will be to make United's first team successful rather

than a broader mandate to change the overall setup of the club, including the youth sides.

Van Gaal indicated he would find room in his backroom staff for some of United's former players from the 'class of 1992' including Paul Scholes, Nicky Butt and Phil Neville.

The former Barcelona and Bayern Munich boss, who led the Netherlands to a third place finish at the World Cup in Brazil, has not yet made a decision of whether compatriot Robin van Persie or fellow striker Wayne Rooney will be appointed as the club's new captain.

Van Gaal was also dealt a blow before the Premier League season has even started after England midfielder Michael Carrick was ruled out for up to three months with ankle ligament damage.