

What to WATCH

SONY SIX

Australian Open
Day-11, Semifinal (Women)
Live from 6:00am (Thursday)
TEN 1HD
South Africa v Sri Lanka

3rd T20

Live from 10:00pm
EFL Cup
Liverpool v Southampton
Live from 1:30am (Thursday)

TOURE DISMISSES LURE OF CHINA

Yaya Toure says he wants to remain at Manchester City and is not interested in moving to China, amid reports of a big-money offer from the Chinese Super League. Reports last week said Toure, 33, had rejected an approach from a Chinese club that would have seen him paid around £430,000 (\$536,000, 499,000 euros) a week. With his contract up at the end of the season, the former Ivory Coast midfielder faces an uncertain future, but he says he has no interest in joining the likes of Oscar and Carlos Tevez in China. "I always say that if I went to China I would end up feeling angry there," Toure said, in comments carried by several British newspapers on Tuesday. "Do you play football because you love football or do you play because you want to make money? What's the purpose?"

- AFP



Swiss superstar Roger Federer celebrates his victory against Germany's Mischa Zverev during their men's singles quarterfinal match of the Australian Open in Melbourne on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

INT'L SOLIDARITY ARCHERY C'SHIP Recurve bow carries hope

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Archery Federation (BAF) is all set to host an international tournament after five years as the inaugural ISSF International Solidarity Archery Championship begins here at the Maulana Bhasani Hockey Stadium on Friday.

Bangladesh had last held this event in 2011 where 15 nations participated, but this time the number of participating nations has been increased to 17. The tournament is sanctioned by the Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation (ISSF).

A total of 68 archers will compete in nine events -- men's and women's singles and team events in recurve bow, men's and women's singles and team events in compound and mixed team event.

"Though winning medals depends on the players' preparation, confidence and environment, we will try to win maximum medals from the tournament. Our target is to win at least six out of the nine gold medals," BAF vice president and convenor of the tournament Soaib Chowdhury said at a press conference yesterday.

"We think Malaysia, Iraq and Iran will be our main competitors while neighbouring India are yet to confirm their participation," said Chowdhury.

Bangladesh hardly ever produced good results at international events, except for Grand Prix tournaments where Sajjad Hossain, Emdadul Haque Milon and Sajib Sana and Tamimul Islam won gold medals in recurve bow events.

And recurve bow remains Bangladesh's hope in both men's and women's events despite the absence of experienced archers like Emdadul Haque Milon and Sajib Sheikh, who failed to find place in the final squad.

Roman, Tamimul, Durul Huda and Sanwar Hossain put Milon and Sajib behind in the selection process to be included in the final squad while women's recurve team comprises veteran Beauty Roy, Shyamoli Roy, Rabeya Akter and Hira Moni.

"We have been conducting training round the year and the squad has been picked from 100 archers. We are expecting something good from archers like Roman, Beauty and Shyamoli," said BAF vice president Anisur Rahman Dipu.

BAF general secretary Razib Uddin Ahmed Chapal informed that ISSF International Solidarity Championship will be a preparatory tournament for the Bangladesh archers ahead of the Asian Archery Championship, which will be held in Dhaka in November-December.

Klopp ready to help Gerrard

AFP, London

Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp has promised to do everything he can to help Anfield great Steven Gerrard realise his ambition of becoming a manager.

Former Liverpool captain Gerrard is to rejoin his hometown club in February as an academy coach and Klopp said the 36-year-old ex-England midfielder would be assured of his support as he embarks on a new phase of his football career.

"We had a very good very long talk together," explained Klopp, speaking Monday at his pre-match press conference ahead of Wednesday's EFL Cup semifinal second leg against Southampton at Anfield. "Everyone in this room knows better than I do he is a wonderful guy and it was important to know what Steven wants and he said he wants to be a manager in the future. That's cool," said Klopp.

"From my side I said everything I can do to help him on his way to be the best manager he can be, I am ready for this and I'd like to do it.

"Now he is at the academy it is good for us and for him it is perfect," the German boss added.

Fed rolls into semis

AFP, Melbourne



Roger Federer beat giant-killer Mischa Zverev to become the Australian Open's oldest men's semifinalist in nearly 40 years on Tuesday, as fellow veteran Venus Williams also rolled back the years.

The stylish Swiss made light of the challenge posed by German serve-volleyer Zverev, who stunned top seed Andy Murray in the fourth round, to reach a record-extending 41st Grand Slam semifinal.

Federer won 6-1, 7-5, 6-2 in just 92 minutes to set up a last-four clash with his compatriot Stan Wawrinka, who won a bad-tempered quarterfinal with Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 7-6 (7/2), 6-4, 6-3.

The 35-year-old Federer becomes the tournament's oldest semifinalist since Arthur Ashe in 1978, and the oldest at any Grand Slam since Jimmy Connors reached the 1991 US Open last four aged 39.

The draw has opened up invitingly for Federer, a four-time winner in Melbourne, and 2014 champion Wawrinka, as well as fellow thirty-something Rafael Nadal after the exits of Murray and title-holder Novak Djokovic.

"I'm happy for (Wawrinka) that he got this far, but he doesn't need to go one step further," Federer joked. "That's enough."

Earlier Wawrinka and France's Tsonga, who have been at odds in the past, argued heatedly at the first-set changeover before the Swiss charged into his third Melbourne semifinal.

"In the semis I play Roger. It's going to be tough to have some fans but I hope some people will cheer for me," said Wawrinka, 31.

In the women's draw, Williams' age-defying campaign reached new heights as

she beat Russia's Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova to become the oldest female Grand Slam semifinalist in 23 years.

Williams, 36, won 6-4, 7-6 (7/3) to reach the last four without dropping a set and move towards a possible ninth Grand Slam final against her sister Serena, 16 years after their first.

"Why shouldn't I?" said the seven-time major-winner, who is thriving again after a battle with an autoimmune disorder, when asked if she could win her first major title since 2008.

"I try to believe. Should I look across the net and believe the person across the net deserves it more?"

"This mentality is not how champions are made. I'd like to be a champion, in particular this year. The mentality I walk on court with is, 'I deserve this.'"

Next up for Williams is her hard-hitting, aggressive fellow American Coco Vandeweghe, who stunned French Open champion Garbine Muguruza to reach her first Grand Slam semifinal.

The tall, powerful Vandeweghe smashed 31 winners past the Spaniard and raced through the second set in just 28 minutes to complete a lopsided 6-4, 6-0 upset win.

"It's amazing to be in a semifinal. But, you know, not satisfying. I want to keep going, keep playing," said the 35th-ranked Vandeweghe, 25.

"There's more things to do out on a tennis court that I'm hoping to achieve."

Muguruza admitted she had been taken by surprise by Vandeweghe, despite her earlier wins over defending champion Angelique Kerber and Eugenie Bouchard. "I was surprised. I think she played unbelievable. Three times we played in the past, she didn't show this level," Muguruza said. "She played very good. Her serve, her shots were there. She barely missed."

Ventura opens door to Balotelli

AFP, Milan

Italy coach Gian Piero Ventura plans talks with Mario Balotelli, paving the way for the striker to put his troubled past behind him and rejoin the squad for World Cup qualifying.

The 26-year-old Balotelli has not played for Italy since the ill-fated 2014 World Cup campaign in Brazil, where the four-time champions exited at the first hurdle for the second successive edition.

But following his disastrous stint at Liverpool and an ineffective loan spell at AC Milan, Balotelli has revived his flagging career at French side Nice, hitting eight league goals.

"I think no one doubts Balotelli the player, his qualities are indisputable. He was sidelined due to other, behavioural factors," Ventura told the Tiki Taka television programme.

"He has to resolve these problems by himself. Sometime in the future I will be going to watch a couple of Mario's games and I will speak with him."

Italy are tied with Spain at the top of their 2018 World Cup qualifying group after winning three and drawing one of their first four games.

Wenger charged with misconduct

AFP, London



Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger was charged with misconduct by England's governing Football Association on Monday after an alleged altercation with the fourth official during Sunday's 2-1 Premier League win over Burnley.

The veteran French boss was dismissed from his technical area by referee Jon Moss after being angered by the award of a stoppage-time penalty to Burnley, having allegedly verbally abused fourth official Anthony Taylor.

Wenger apologised for his behaviour after the match but that did not prevent him being charged by the FA on Monday. "Arsene Wenger has been charged for misconduct following Arsenal's game against Burnley on Sunday (22 January 2017)," said a statement issued by the FA.

"It is alleged that in or around the 92nd minute, he used abusive and/or insulting words towards the fourth official. "He has until 6:00pm (1800 GMT) on 26 January 2017 to respond to the charge."

Kremlin to host 2018 WC finals draw

AFP, Moscow

The draw for the 2018 World Cup finals hosted by Russia will take place in the Kremlin on December 1, the country's Football Union (RFU) chief Vitaly Mutko said Monday.

Mutko, Russia's deputy prime minister, said that FIFA had approved the plan, which world football's ruling body later confirmed.

"The World Cup finals draw ceremony will take place on December 1," TASS news agency quoted Mutko as saying at a meeting with Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev.

Ecclestone out, Carey in

AFP, Los Angeles



Bernie Ecclestone's long reign as Formula One's ringmaster came to an end Monday as Liberty Media completed its multi-billion-dollar takeover of motorsport's most prestigious brand.

Colorado-based Liberty confirmed in a statement that American Chase Carey had been appointed chairman and chief executive of F1, with Ecclestone moving into an advisory role as "chairman emeritus".

Ecclestone, 86, had already signalled the end of his near 40-year reign as head of Formula One in comments to German magazine Auto Motor und Sport earlier

Monday. "I was dismissed today," Ecclestone told the magazine. "I no longer run the company. My position has been taken by Chase Carey," he said.

He said his new chairman emeritus role was "a kind of honorary president" position, but added: "I have this title without knowing what it means."

Carey, a vice-chairman of the 21st Century Fox media conglomerate, said he was looking forward to running a sport which had "huge potential with multiple untapped opportunities."

"I have enjoyed hearing from the fans, teams, FIA, promoters and sponsors on their ideas and hopes for the sport," Carey said.

WALTON
It's our product

Spend Less... Get More
Aristocratic stylish design with fabulous colors

Buy the Best One, being confirmed the product quality & ability of after sales service

Visit Walton, the largest pavilion in the history of DITF & examine the differences

1 YEAR REPLACEMENT GUARANTEE
for the confidence of excellent quality

WINTER Special DISCOUNT

eCozen
Non-Frost Refrigerator Technology

Buy Refrigerator with Intelligent Inverter
Save Electricity, Be Intelligent

More than 100 models & designs
100% Copper Condenser

High Glossy, Scratch & Corrosion Resistant
9 Layer VCM Door
Protective Film
PET Layer
Print Layer
VCM Film
Adhesive Material
Pre-treatment Upper Surface
Electro Galvanized Steel
Pre-treatment Lower Surface
Service Coating

NANO HEALTHCARE
NANO Healthcare Technology is used in Walton Refrigerator
Nano Silver keeps interior of fridge fresh & healthy
Prevents bad odor & keeps taste of food intact
Keeps food fresh for longer
Averts harmful bacteria

Intelligent INVERTER Technology
Save huge electricity
Increase compressor lifetime
Reduce noise

Intelligent Inverter Compressor
10 Years Guarantee

High quality Stainless Steel/Multi-layer VCM & PCM sheets are used in Walton fridge, so it remains rust-free, erosion-free, scratch protective and keeps brightness year to year.

IAF
ISO 9001 : 2008, ISO 14001 : 2004 & OHSAS 18001 : 2007 Certified Company

All models are tested by:
NUSDAT-UTS
ISO/IEC 17025 (BAB Accredited)
Capable to test as per Bangladesh, India, Saudi Arabia & UAE Standard
Accepted in ILAG & APLAC Member Countries

Refrigerator & Freezer

16267
09612316267

waltonbd.com

WALTON



It's time for Bangladesh

SPACE!! No Matter
© Walton Refrigerator