

VARDY'S WIFE TARGETED

Leicester City's Jamie Vardy has said he was subjected to death threats and his wife targeted by aggressive motorists after allegations that he contributed to the sacking of manager Claudio Ranieri. The 30-year-old striker said he had suffered abuse walking along the street and also said his wife had been repeatedly "cut up" while driving. The allegation he attended a meeting called by Leicester owner Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha hours after the 2-1 defeat at Sevilla, had prompted the abuse, Vardy said. Asked where the abuse came from, Vardy said: "On social media, you name it - walking down the street. To be honest I get them (taunts) every week. Football fans don't seem to like me. I just get on with it but when people are trying to cut your missus up while she's driving along, with the kids in the back of the car it's not the best. It's happened plenty of times."



—Reuters

QUICK SINGLES

The following are a few samples of stories that did not make the print edition. However, if they pique your interest, you can always read them online on The Daily Star website by simply scanning the QR codes listed below:

BD hope SL win brings more Tests

Bangladesh's historic Test victory in Sri Lanka should encourage more teams to find space in their schedules to play the fast-improving minnows, according to the head of the country's cricket board.



SL Cricket's top brass meet after shock defeat

Sri Lanka Cricket's top brass including President Thilanga Sumathipala, Chairman of Selectors Sanath Jayasuriya and captain Rangana Herath will meet after the national cricket team's shocking defeat against Bangladesh at P. Sara Oval.



Manchester City charged by FA

Manchester City face a charge of failing to control their players by the Football Association for their surrounding the referee Michael Oliver when he awarded a penalty in the 1-1 draw with Liverpool.



Argentine players continue to shun reporters

Argentina's players, who have been arriving in Buenos Aires for World Cup qualifiers against Chile and Bolivia, are sticking to their decision to not talk to the media.



Chicago Fire sign Schweinsteiger

Manchester United midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger is set to join Major League Soccer club Chicago Fire, the Chicago Tribune has reported.



Hockey transfers in limbo again

SPORTS REPORTER

Fourteen months after the completion of the last players' transfers of the Premier Division Hockey League, the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) is seemingly reluctant to declare the players' transfers for the upcoming season, leaving another season at risk of disappearing from the calendar.

The game's governing body last held the players' transfers in January 16 last year after a two-year gap, but the players -- especially who represented the national team at the international level -- were deprived of getting their demanded wages after being bracketed into three grades which offered less pay than what was expected. As a result, even players outside the national team earned less than expected from the clubs.

Whereas the players expect the game's governing body to recuperate some of their financial losses by declaring this season's players' transfers open before the start of the AHF Asia Cup -- which is scheduled to begin in Dhaka in October -- the BHF has taken virtually no initiative to stage the transfers. Instead they are busy holding the next elections of the federation and concentrating on hosting the eight-team Asia Cup.

"Whenever the players demanded the players' transfers in past, we were tagged in the conspiracy, so I don't want to be part of that conspiracy by talking about the players' transfers. I know whatever we earned from hockey came from playing in the premier league as we could hardly get anything by playing for the national team. So the federation should look after the things to keep the hockey players alive," said a senior player on condition of anonymity.

He added that some top hockey players were preparing to go to Germany to play the domestic league there and earn some money to run their families, but he was worried about the rest of the players who depend on the Premier Division Hockey League.

When contacted, BHF general secretary Abdus Sadque said that there was hardly any possibility of declaring the players' transfers and holding the league before the completion of the AHF Asia Cup in October.

"The national hockey team are supposed to travel to Germany and Austria and will stay there for two months as part of their preparations for the Asia Cup as well as to play in the domestic league in Germany. Besides that the polls of the federation is supposed to be held in July and the Asia Cup is scheduled to take place here in October. The clubs are also not interested to take part in players' transfers before the Asia Cup. So, the players' transfers may take place in November," said Sadque.

The BHF general secretary however said he understood the need for the players' transfers and promised that he would try to make the clubs understand and take part in the transfers before the start of Asia Cup.



England players take part in a training session at St George's Park in Burton-on-Trent yesterday, ahead of their international friendly against Germany in Dortmund tonight.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Federer in full flight

AFP, Indian Wells



Roger Federer keeps saying he's still on the comeback trail, but he's covering ground faster than he ever imagined.

The Swiss, sidelined much of 2016 with a knee injury, soared to a fifth ATP Indian Wells Masters title on Sunday to go with the 18th Grand Slam crown he claimed at the Australian Open in January.

And now that he's back at number six in the world, Federer is reassessing his goals for 2017.

"This was not part of the plan, to win Australia and Indian Wells," Federer said after his 6-4, 7-5 victory over fellow Swiss Stan Wawrinka in the Indian Wells final.

"The goal was to be top eight by after Wimbledon, so I'm there much, much faster.

"I will make the plan for the remainder of the season, especially for the clay, after Miami, and then see also what the goals are because the goals are clearly changing after this dream start."

Federer emerged from a daunting quarter in Indian Wells that also included world number two Novak Djokovic and 14-time Grand Slam champion Rafael Nadal as well as former US Open champion Juan Martin del Potro and rising talents Nick Kyrgios and Alexander Zverev.

Kyrgios sent Djokovic packing, and the Serbian star has since withdrawn from this week's tournament in Miami saying an elbow injury he's carried for months had worsened.

Federer wiped the floor with Nadal in Indian Wells just two months after his thrilling five-set win over the Spaniard in the Australian Open final.

England's German test

AFP, Dortmund



World champions Germany host England in a prestige friendly in Dortmund on Wednesday with both coaches primed to give youth its head for one of football's great rivalries.

But that is where the similarities end for Joachim Loew and Gareth Southgate, who is in charge for the first time as England's permanent manager.

Southgate takes over with England at their lowest ebb in recent memory and with expectations back home rock-bottom.

Loew, who has been at the helm since 2006, needs only to fine-tune for the defence of their crown at next year's World Cup in Russia.

Loew is set to give a debut to forward Timo Werner, 21, a rising star in German football, while goalkeeper and captain Manuel Neuer has been ruled out with a calf injury.

Germany are also without the Dortmund duo of winger Marco Reus and attacking midfielder Mario Goetze, the former with a hamstring injury while Goetze is recovering from a metabolism disorder.

There is also no place for Bayern Munich's Jerome Boateng, the central defender who is regaining fitness after

shoulder surgery.

Germany and England's records at major tournaments may be very different -- Iceland sent England packing, humiliated -- at Euro 2016 and the Germans were disappointed to "only" go as far as the semi-finals.

But Germany are chasing a first win over their old rivals on home soil since 1987 and need no reminding of the 5-1 mauling their team took in Munich in 2001, when Michael Owen hit a hat-trick.

But Southgate is particularly light in the forward department in the 2017 vintage, missing the injured Harry Kane and Daniel Sturridge and dropping skipper Wayne Rooney.

In his young squad he included for the first time James Ward-Prowse, captain of England's under-21 team, along with 23-year-old Southampton teammate Nathan Redmond. Southgate also recalled striker Jermain Defoe, returning to the squad at 34.

Defoe though is the exception and Southgate and Loew will both look to blood youngsters before World Cup qualifiers on Sunday, when Germany play Azerbaijan away in Baku and England host Lithuania.

Both countries look nailed-on to reach Russia, but England have consistently disappointed once it really matters.

Emdadul eliminated

SPORTS REPORTER

Veteran archer Emdadul Haque Milon was eliminated from the first round of the Asia Cup Archery World Ranking tournament in Bangkok, Thailand yesterday.

Milon, who finished 61st among 68 archers with a score of 591 in the qualification round but young archer Tamimul Islam easily beat Mansour Fahad Alwi of Saudi Arabia 7-1 to move into the second round said a press release yesterday.

No date for Kvitova return

AFP, Prague

Petra Kvitova has regained the use of her racquet hand badly injured three months ago in a knife attack but there is still no date for her return to tennis, her spokesman said on Monday.

The two-time Wimbledon champion suffered severe injuries to her left hand as she fought off a knife-wielding intruder at her home in Prostějov in December.



(L) Effigies of Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi were burnt in Valencia in celebration of the week-long fire festival Las Fallas. Bayern Munich's Renato Sanches was named Portugal's 'Revelation Player', given to the most impressive footballer under the age of 21, at the annual Gala Quinas de Ouro awards ceremony in Lisbon, while Ronaldo won Player of the Year. (Top R) Virat Kohli posted this picture from a Dharamsala-bound plane, where India will face Australia in the fourth and final Test. PHOTOS: EPA/TWITTER



Federation Cup TT Abahani clinch women's doubles title

SPORTS REPORTER

Abahani clinched the title of the women's team event in the Federation Cup Table Tennis Tournament with a straight sets (3-0) win over Bangladesh Army at the Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Indoor Stadium yesterday.

The Abahani team, featuring Sonom Sultana Soma and Sadia Rahman Mou, did not give any chances to the Army team comprising Rahima Akter and Moumita Alam Rumi. Earlier Soma and Mou had handed Rahima and Rumi identical 3-1 set defeats in singles.

Meanwhile, the Federation Cup started on Sunday sans the top clubs - including last year's league champions Arunima Sportswear, runners-up Sishiron TT Club, Palalick Group and Sheikh Russel KC -- who showed no confidence on sitting general secretary Khandokar Hasan Munir. Thus the country's top table tennis players were also deprived of playing in the Federation Cup as well as getting wages

Neymar reveals EPL ambitions

AGencies, London



Brazilian superstar Neymar has revealed that he had ambitions of playing in the English Premier League someday and admitted that he thought the idea of working alongside either Jose Mourinho or Pep Guardiola was an exciting one.

"I like the playing style and the teams. And who knows, someday, I would like to play there, yes. I admire Manchester United, Chelsea, Arsenal, Liverpool -- these are the teams that are always there fighting," Neymar was quoted as saying by English newspaper The Sun.

"And then you have high-level coaches like Mourinho and Guardiola. These are coaches with whom any player would like to work."

The Barcelona star added that he loved the competitiveness in the Premier League and how unpredictable it could be after witnessing Leicester's fairytale triumph last season.

The Foxes fairytale continues as they join Barcelona in the Champions League last eight, seeing off Sevilla to line up a quarterfinal clash with Atletico Madrid.

"In the Premier League you never know who is going to win or who will be champions, it is always a surprise. Leicester are very good. They had a great season last year, they were champions and therefore we need to respect them if we draw them in the Champions League."

Barcelona booked their place in the last eight in sensational fashion when they thrashed PSG 6-1 at home, making Champs League history as the first team to overcome a 4-0 first-leg deficit, with Neymar netting twice and setting up the dramatic winning goal.

"Even today we keep on wondering what happened there because that night was a historical, wonderful night. We needed a miracle and the god of football gave us a miracle. We celebrated a lot in the changing room and the excitement levels were very high. Then I celebrated with my family and friends. With that game, we must celebrate, there is no other way. I couldn't go home and sleep."

