

RONALDO BECOMES FATHER TO TWINS

Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo has become a father to twins with a surrogate mother, Portuguese media reported Saturday. Reports said the babies -- a girl and boy named Eva and Mateo -- were born on Thursday to a woman living on the US West Coast. The captain of Portugal's victorious Euro 2016 team had his first son Cristiano Junior in June 2010 -- also reportedly with a surrogate mother, although he has never confirmed it. British tabloid The Sun had reported in March that the quadruple Ballon d'Or winner was expecting twins. The 32-year-old striker is currently dating Spanish model Georgina Rodriguez. The reports come after a twin-heavy week in the celebrity world, after George Clooney and his human rights lawyer wife Amal welcomed newborns Ella and Alexander.

—AFP



'SO NOT NORMAL'

"Four games he dropped at most -- in any set in any match. That's incredible. There are so many improvements to his game that he's a better player now than he was when he won Wimbledon two times before (in 2008 and 2010). Today's Rafa would beat the Rafa of 2005 who won his first French Open and wouldn't drop more than three games a set."

-- Mats Wilander

"He lost 35 games in the entire tournament... I'm pretty sure I've lost my car keys 35 times this year. 10...10...10 you can say it as much as you want. It's so not normal. Huge respect for Rafa."

- Andy Roddick

"INCREDIBLE!! So impressive that it almost doesn't seem real. Congrats my friend!"

- Golfer Sergio Garcia

"Simply incredible Rafa"

-Roger Federer



"I don't think many can put it into words and I don't think many understand this accomplishment, truly incredible."

- Tommy Haas

"An amazing 10th title at Roland Garros for Rafael Nadal -that will never happen again. Congratulations to a true champion on and off the court."

- Martina Navratilova

"You have someone over the other side of the net who is so strong physically, who hits the ball that hard, and plays every single point like a match point. We are not talking about winning a match, set or a game (against him). Winning one point is difficult."

- Fabrice Santoro

"I'm totally shocked to see him do it. I didn't think I'd see him come back to win another slam, let alone emphatically."

- Pat Cash

Doubts powered Rafa resurgence

AFP, Paris



Rafael Nadal admits he doubted he'd ever win another Grand Slam title after a three-year drought at the majors and an ongoing battle with injuries and poor form.

On Sunday, the 31-year-old Spaniard coasted to a record 10th French Open title, demolishing Stan Wawrinka in a brutally one-sided final which also earned him a 15th Grand Slam crown.

Nadal triumphed 6-2, 6-3, 6-1 to become the first man in history to win the same major 10 times.

"I have doubts every day but that's good as it makes me work hard with more intensity," he said. "You have to be humble and accept that you have to work to improve things."

"I have doubts today, I had doubts in the last three years, I will have doubts in a few days. Life is never clear. If you have no doubts, then you are very arrogant. I am not an arrogant person."

After winning his ninth Roland Garros and 14th major in 2014, Nadal's best performance at the Slams was two quarter-final spots.

But he finished runner-up at the Australian Open in January, losing in five sets to Federer and he was back in business.

He dominated the clay court season with titles in Monte Carlo, Barcelona and Madrid.

Nadal went through the French Open without dropping a set for the third time in his French Open career. He lost just 35 games in total, second only to Bjorn Borg's record of 32 in the Swede's 1978 title-winning season.

"To win 10 Roland Garros titles is magical," added Nadal. "I had tough times last year so it's great to have big success again."

Despite his dominance at the French Open, Nadal said he never took victory for granted.

"At 4-1 in the third set I knew I was close. At 5-1, I thought probably I am going to win this."

Nadal said he had not given up hope of taking back the world number one ranking that he last held in June 2014.

"If I win I have chances to become number one -- if I play well, why not?"

PHOTO: REUTERS

Rafael Nadal is sprawled on the red dirt of his beloved Philippe Chatrier Court, where he won a record 10th French Open title by defeating Stanislas Wawrinka in the final on Sunday.

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:

WI stumble to low target to level Afg series

West Indies overcome a mini collapse on their way to a series-levelling four-wicket victory in a low-scoring second ODI against Afghanistan.

King of clay now eyeing the grass

Rafa Nadal says winning a French Open-Wimbledon double for the third time in his career will be "complicated" but is highly motivated to have a go as he prepares for the grasscourt season.

Silva, Costa keep Spain in front of Italy

Spain keep their noses in front of Italy in the fight for automatic qualification for next year's World Cup as David Silva and Diego Costa are on target in a 2-1 win in Macedonia.

Coutinho to lead revamped Brazil

AFP, Melbourne



Diego Souza will replace injured striker Gabriel Jesus and Philippe Coutinho will lead rejigged Brazil in Tuesday's friendly with Australia in Melbourne.

A replacement had to be found for Manchester City's Jesus, who has returned home after suffering a fractured eye socket in Brazil's 1-0 Superclasico loss to Argentina at the MCG on Friday.

It will be Souza's chance to impress team manager Tite ahead of next year's World Cup in Russia and represents his first opportunity to start for Brazil after late substitute appearances in qualifiers against Uruguay and Paraguay this year.

"For me it's great to be called up and to have the opportunity to play," said Souza, who normally plays as an attacking midfielder for Sport Recife.

"It will be important to show my best. There are so many centre-forward options in Brazil: Fred, Firmino, Gabriel Jesus, are all looking for a place in the team."

"I've had the dream of maybe being at a World Cup, it's difficult, they're very good players, the competition is great, but I'm enjoying it."

Along with Souza, Brazil made significant team changes with Tite announcing that Chelsea defender David Luiz will start as the holding midfielder, with Paulinho and Coutinho in front of him.

Thiago Silva will be partnered in defence by Rodrigo Caio, with Alex Sandro

(Juventus) and Rafinha (Bayern Munich) at fullback and Diego Alves in goal.

Tite's front three will include Douglas Costa, Giuliano and Souza.

Liverpool midfielder Coutinho will captain his country for the first time against the Socceroos.

Tite continued the rotation of captains in the national team with Coutinho to take over the captain's armband after Thiago Silva led the team against Argentina on Friday.

"I have to give them the chance to play," Tite said at his pre-game press conference Monday.

"This is it - the opportunity for everyone to play. My sense of justice is to give everyone an opportunity."

"I can think just about me, winning the matches and having a good (winning) record but then someone doesn't have an opportunity."

"I have to give them opportunities and even if we lose matches, they know I'm watching them. I will make some mistakes but I'm trying to do it right."

"This is the time to give them their opportunities."

Brazil, who have already qualified for Russia 2018, did not bring leading stars Neymar, Marcelo, Dani Alves and Roberto Firmino to Australia.

The Socceroos are coming off a 3-2 home win over Saudi Arabia last Thursday which kept alive their automatic qualifying hopes for next year's World Cup finals.

Australia are using the prestige Brazil friendly as their final match preparation for this month's Confederations Cup in Russia.

Milan snap up Silva

AFP, Milan

AC Milan are on the verge of capturing Portugal sensation Andre Silva from Porto as the resurgent Serie A giants continue to build for next season.

Television pictures early on Monday showed Silva, often described as the "the new Cristiano Ronaldo", on his way to undergo a medical in Milan.

The 21-year-old striker was a reported target for a number of top European clubs.

But after Milan failed in bids to land Andrea Belotti from Torino and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang from Borussia Dortmund, Silva is now expected to sign for the seven-time European champions.

He would become their fourth recruit in as many weeks following the signing of Swiss left-back Ricardo Rodriguez (Wolfsburg), Ivorian Franck Kessie (Atalanta) and Argentinian centre-back Mateo Musaccio.

Milan were recently sold to Chinese investors by long-time club owner Silvio Berlusconi in a bid to inject fresh impetus into their attempt to rejoin the elite of European football.

BHF to release Oliver Kurtz

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) is all set to release German hockey coach Oliver Kurtz from his duty four-and-a-half months before the expiration of his 10-month contract citing breach of terms and conditions of the agreement.

The decision was taken at the BHF working committee meeting yesterday as Kurtz failed to comply with the agreement since the completion of the Hockey World League Round-2 held in Dhaka in November.

"The working committee has decided to release him from his duty today [Monday]. As the federation has some disagreements with Kurtz, who is walking his own way and violating the terms and conditions of the contract," said BHF general secretary Abdus Sadeque after the meeting.

"The coach is not performing according to the contract. He is supposed to facilitate the national team's 22-day training in a month but he did not do it after the completion of Hockey World League Round-2 in November. Secondly, the coach should give valuable suggestions to the selection and coaching committees to select the national team but he wants to pick the squad himself."

Sadeque cited a couple of examples of breaching the terms and conditions of contract, adding that Kurtz threatened to resign if the federation doesn't follow his programme, which includes having a 14-day training camp in Germany.

"We will soon tell him our decision through email as he has not been in Bangladesh," said Sadeque. "We will also clear off all his dues."

The legendary hockey player also informed that the national team will take part in the Asia Cup, which is scheduled to be held in Dhaka in November, under the supervision of a local coach -- either Mahbub Harun or Mamun-Ur-Rashid.

"The meeting also decided that Mamun will guide the national squad during the tour of India in August as Mamun has been working with the tour of India," said Sadeque adding that there have been instances when Bangladesh performed under the guidance of the local coach in the past.

Kurtz, who once worked as the assistant coach of the Bangladesh hockey team in 2010, was initially appointed for three months last September to guide Bangladesh in Hockey World League Round-2 and then his contract was extended till October this year despite failing to achieve the target of reaching the semifinals where Bangladesh lost to Oman to finish fifth among eight teams.

Valbuena joining Fenerbahce

AFP, Istanbul

Mathieu Valbuena, the France international at the centre of an interminable sex-tape scandal, has agreed to join Istanbul giants Fenerbahce from Lyon, the Turkish club said on Monday.

Fenerbahce said in a statement that an agreement in principle had been reached for the 32-year-old attacking midfielder's transfer and the signing would follow later.

The Dogan news agency said that Valbuena was already on his way to Istanbul and would undergo a medical on Tuesday.

Fenerbahce are looking to reinforce their side after finishing well behind champions Besiktas and surprise runners-up Basaksehir of Istanbul in the Turkish Super Lig last season.

Third place gave Fenerbahce entry to the third qualifying round of the Europa League but only a Super Lig championship would satisfy their fans.

Valbuena, whose France career was ended by the sex-tape scandal in which he was the victim of a blackmail attempt, enjoyed a long stint at Marseille up to 2014 before joining Dynamo Moscow and then moving on to Lyon a year later.

He scored eight goals in 52 France appearances from 2010 to 2015.

Heaton set to replace Hart

AFP, Croissy-Sur-Seine

Tom Heaton of Burnley will replace Joe Hart in goal for England in Tuesday's friendly against France in Paris, manager Gareth Southgate has confirmed.

The 31-year-old Heaton will win his third international cap in the match at the Stade de France, as Hart -- criticised following his performance in Saturday's 2-2 draw against Scotland -- is left out.

Stoke City's Jack Butland will play the second half, as Southgate reiterated that it was always his intention to give someone else a chance in England's final run-out of the season having named four goalkeepers in his squad.



Brazil forwards Willian (C) and Diego Souza vie for the ball during a training session in Melbourne yesterday on the eve of their international friendly against Australia.

PHOTO: AFP

ANNOUNCEMENT

Written Test for the post of Trainee Assistant Teller

The time for the written test for the post of Trainee Assistant Teller will be on **Friday 16 June 2017, at 03:30 p.m.** instead of **10:00 a.m.**

The examination venue remains unchanged.



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