

# Window into Wimbledon

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

Ernests Gulbis, who was ranked as high as 10 just three years ago before slumping to his current 589, won his first match in 13 months when he saw off Victor Estrella 6-1, 6-1, 6-2.

WHO'S SAYING WHAT

"I've had enough match play in Eastbourne."

--Novak Djokovic happy to spend just 40 minutes on Centre Court where opponent Martin Klizan retired a set and 2-0 down.

"Well, he's introduced me to a lot of '80s rock bands, which before I wasn't quite familiar with. I keep having to remind him I was born in '91."

--Coco Vandeweghe on new coach Pat Cash, the 1987 champion.

"It's like flipping the coin every day 365 days a year, you have to flip a coin 200 times a day and then hopefully you win the majority of those coin tosses. To me, that's how it is when you serve and volley because you never know what's going to happen."

-- Germany's Mischa Zverev on the risks and rewards of serve and volleying.

"Well, if you ask Federer to give back 500 million dollars, would he do that or not?"

-- Bernard Tomic after being asked whether or not he would give back his prize money for admitting he lost his opening round match because he was bored.

NUMBERS UP

7 - Match points saved by Australia's Arina Rodionova in her three-set win over 16th seed Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova of Russia. It was also a first ever Slam main draw win for the qualifier.

1,085 -- The ranking of Britain's James Ward, the lowest in the men's tournament.

SELECTED MATCHES (FIRST ROUND)
Dominic Thiem (8) beat Vasek Pospisil 6-4, 6-4, 6-3
Caroline Wozniacki (5) beat Timea Babos 6-4, 4-6, 6-1
Milos Raonic (6) beat Jan-Lennard Struff 7-6(5), 6-2, 7-6(4)
David Ferrer beat Richard Gasquet (22) 6-3, 6-4, 5-7, 6-2
Agnieszka Radwanska (9) beat Jelena Jankovic 7-6, 6-0
Mischa Zverev beat Bernard Tomic 6-4, 6-3, 6-4

## 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:

**Niekerk takes four wickets for O!**

South Africa women skipper Dan Van Niekerk sets a new cricket world record following her side's emphatic victory over West Indies in the ICC Women's World Cup.

**Defoe's friendship moves world football**

The friendship between six-year old Bradley Lowery, who is a Sunderland supporter and footballer Jermain Defoe has moved world football. Bradley is terminally-ill and suffers from neuroblastoma which is an aggressive type of cancer.

**Couldn't bear to face Chelsea: Terry**

At the age of 36, and having won five Premier League titles, former Chelsea captain John Terry has embarked on a final challenge by signing a one-year contract with Championship side Aston Villa.

**Messi is the best dancer, says wife**

Barcelona playmaker Lionel Messi has perfected the art of football. His mesmerizing dribbles and unique abilities sets him apart from any other player in football history. His mazy runs, mind boggling nutmegs and effortless goal scoring leaves everyone gasping in disbelief but what about his dancing skills?



Angelique Kerber of Germany pumps her fist after beating Irina Falconi of USA in the women's singles first round match in Wimbledon yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## CHINESE REFS SNEAK ATTACKED

A group of at least 10 people attacked a team of match officials following a controversial draw in China's League One, the Chinese Football Association (CFA) has said. The referee and his assistants were assaulted in their hotel room shortly after the power to the room had been cut off. The CFA says they were left with injuries to their heads, waists and legs. A police investigation has reportedly been launched. A spokeswoman for the CFA said: "At about 22:30 [local time] after the match, the electricity of the room where the referees were resting was cut off. At about 23:10, at least 10 people broke into the room and started beating up the four referees, who were left with injuries to their heads, waists and legs." The incident comes in the wake of a controversial match between Baoding Rongda and Wuhan Zall, which was played out last Saturday.

—AGENCIES



# Federer, Djokovic get free passes

among the favourites after reaching last year's final, which she lost to Serena.

The German has failed to maintain that form this season and her poor run culminated in an embarrassing French Open first round loss to Ekaterina Makarova last month.

But the top seed showed glimpses of her best form as she saw off American qualifier Irina Falconi 6-4, 6-4 in 87 minutes on



AFP, London

Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic barely had to break sweat to make winning starts at Wimbledon as their injury-hit opponents retired hurt from their first round matches on Tuesday.

Federer is chasing a record eighth Wimbledon title and he was already well on top at the start of his 19th All England Club campaign when Alexandr Dolgoplov was forced to quit with an ankle injury.

The world number three raced into a 6-3, 3-0 in 43 minutes on Centre Court before the Ukrainian limped off.

Federer, who hit his 10,000th career ace in the eighth game of the first set, will face either Dusan Lajovic of Serbia or Greek qualifier Stefanos Tsitsipas for a place in the last 32.

"It feels great to be back on Centre Court," said Federer, who recorded his 85th match win at Wimbledon, passing the mark he shared with Jimmy Connors.

Djokovic, a three-time Wimbledon champion, was leading 6-3, 2-0 when Slovakian world number 47 Martin Klizan retired after just 40 minutes on Centre Court due to a calf problem.

The 30-year-old Serb will face Adam Pavlasek of the Czech Republic for a place in the last 32.

It was the kind of trouble-free first round Djokovic would have been hoping for after the most turbulent period of his career, the 12-time major winner losing in the Australian Open second round and the French Open quarter-finals.

With defending champion Serena Williams sidelined while she prepares to give birth to her first child, the race to win the women's title is the most wide open in a generation.

World number one Angelique Kerber, the 2016 Australian and US Open winner, is

### MATCH OF THE DAY

**GAVRILOVA (20) V MARTIC**

The game of the day was a frenetic match between 20th seed Daria Gavrilova and Petra Martic, which the qualifier won 6-4, 2-6, 8-10. Gavrilova lost the first set, but comfortably won the second before a final set that almost seemed like it would never end. In the end, the 26-year-old Croat came out on top after a gruelling 18 games in the final set of the two-hour-thirty-five-minute match.

Centre Court.

Milos Raonic advanced to the second round with a 7-6 (7/5), 6-2, 7-6 (7/4) win against Jan-Lennard Struff.

Argentina's Juan Martin Del Potro, a semi-finalist in 2013, defeated Australian Thanasi Kokkinakis 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (7/2), 6-4 as the 29th seed moved towards a potential third round classic against Djokovic.

Australia's Bernard Tomic said he had lost his "respect" for tennis following his lacklustre 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 loss to Mischa Zverev.

French 22nd seed Richard Gasquet slumped to a 6-3, 6-4, 5-7, 6-2 loss against Spain's David Ferrer.

Former French Open champion Garbine Muguruza, the 14th seed, defeated Russia's Ekaterina Alexandrova 6-2, 6-4.

# BFF ramps up training

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has sped up its plans to prepare for the upcoming SAFF U-15 Championship and will begin training from Friday after holding a one-day trial today at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium.

BFF president Kazi Salahuddin instructed technical director Paul Smalley and coaches' education coordinator BA Jubair Nipu to immediately arrange a training camp on Monday, the day The Daily Star ran a story titled 'BFF struggles to break old habits'.

The article focused on how the BFF failed to maintain a four-year plan on training schedules ahead of tournaments such as the SAFF U-16 Championship, which has been revised to the U-15 Championship this year.

The game's governing body's initial plan was to start training the team in late July, leaving them with only two weeks to prepare for the championship, scheduled to begin in Nepal on August 18. However, the revised schedule will see the boys get at least five weeks time to prepare their title defence.

"As per the instructions from the BFF president, we are going to conduct a one-day trial tomorrow [Wednesday] with over 50 players who have been selected earlier from the ongoing Pioneer Football League, Development Cup and Mokh Cup and around 10 players will come from outside those tournaments," said Nipu yesterday.

"We will pick up some 25 to 30 players from the trial and later some selected players from the NSC talent Hunt programme will join the final training starting from Friday," continued Nipu, adding that the BFF president would decide the final venue, which will likely be Khulna BKSP, for preparation.

## Morata nears United move

REUTERS, Madrid

Spain striker Alvaro Morata is closing in on a 70 million euros move from Real Madrid to Manchester United, Spanish media reported on Monday.

The forward's agent Juanma Lopez and his father were photographed arriving at Real's Santiago Bernabeu stadium on Monday for a meeting with the European champions, and Spanish daily AS reported the two parties were close to finalising a deal by the end of the week.

Europa League holders United depart for their pre-season tour of the United States on July 9, where they will face Real in Santa Clara before taking on the Champions League winners in the UEFA Super Cup on August 8.

Former Juventus forward Morata netted 20 times in all competitions last season in 17 starts, giving him the best goals to games ratio of Real's forwards.

He also developed a knack for grabbing vital goals.

# Venus sobs over fatal car crash

AFP, London

Venus Williams broke down in tears during a Wimbledon press conference on Monday when she was asked about her involvement in a fatal car crash.

Williams is being sued by the estate of an elderly Florida man who died last month after his vehicle was hit by a car driven by the American star.

The 37-year-old is accused of running a red light, inattentive driving and negligent operation of a vehicle, leaving Jerome Barson with a fractured spine and numerous internal injuries before his death several weeks later.

After her 7-6 (9/7), 6-4 victory over Elise Mertens in the Wimbledon first round, world number 11 Williams was repeatedly asked about the incident by the media and eventually became so emotional she began to cry.

"There are really no words to describe, like, how devastating and -- yeah. I'm completely speechless. It's just..." Williams said.

The five-time Wimbledon champion held her head for several moments and asked to leave the room before returning, still visibly shaken, to finish the interview session several minutes later.

Williams, who owns a home near the crash site, last week said she was "heartbroken" over the tragic incident as she prepared to make her 20th appearance at Wimbledon.

She was focused enough on court against Mertens, but it quickly became clear the press conference wasn't going to be so easy to deal with.

Asked about her feelings during such a difficult period, she tried to keep her answers limited to tennis at first.

"I've definitely played a lot of tennis. It's a good thing to be on the court," she said.

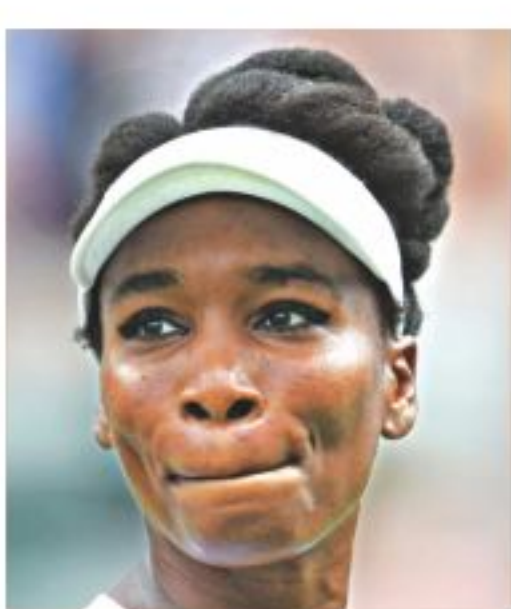
"Tennis is still the love of my life. You know, it gives me joy."

"This is my 20th Wimbledon. I never thought that I'd play this many. But I'm grateful to be here and to play."

The accident remains under investigation and Williams has not been charged.

Williams' attorney, Malcolm Cunningham said his client entered an intersection on a green light that turned red during her turn, but she was stuck in the intersection because of traffic.

The police report said Williams was deemed at fault for blocking the right of way of the other vehicle.



# Sanchez deal 'unfeasible'

AGENCIES, Munich

Bayern Munich president Uli Hoeness has suggested it would be "unfeasible" to sign Alexis Sanchez from Arsenal.

The Bundesliga champions have been heavily linked with a bid for the Chile international, who has just one year left to run on his contract in north London.

Manchester City are also widely reported to be at the front of the race for his signature, with the UK media suggesting that Pep Guardiola would be willing to sanction a transfer fee in excess of £50million and wages of more than £350,000 a week to land the former Barcelona man.

Hoeness says he is in the dark when it comes to the finer details of Bayern's transfer plans but he has admitted that they are unlikely to match such exorbitant wage demands.

"I'm not in the operational side.

[Chairman] Karl-Heinz Rummenigge has not yet come to me, so the matter doesn't seem to be too urgent with him," he said, as quoted by Kicker.

"A €20 million salary is probably not feasible."

Bayern at least appear unlikely to spend heavily on another forward unless Douglas Costa is sold in the transfer window.

Juventus have been tipped to sign the Brazil international but Hoeness says he will not be allowed to leave unless their asking price -- reportedly €50m -- is met.

"As long as he has not signed anywhere else, he'll return, and if the signing does not happen then he will start the season on August 18," said Hoeness.

"When a club comes and pays the sum that Karl-Heinz Rummenigge has asked for, he will leave. We paid a lot of money so we want to get more."

Former Bayern manager Ottmar Hitzfeld also believes a deal for Alexis is unlikely, and believes Die Roten have enough talent already in their squad.

"If you could get a Sanchez, someone would have to go back to the bank



## ASIAN ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

# Mezbah to carry Bangladesh flag

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's fastest man Mezbah Ahmed will carry the national flag during the inaugural ceremony of the 22nd Asian Athletics Championships, which gets underway today at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, India.

The Bangladeshi athletes were afforded a rare opportunity to properly prepare for the meet in India over the past two weeks as the Indian Athletic Federation provided training facilities to neighbouring athletes. Approximately 18 athletes will compete in 13 different events which includes four events in the women's section. Despite there being hardly any hope of winning a medal from the four-day tournament, the athletes are focused on simply improving their individual bests.

The Bangladesh contingent consists of Mezbah, Shah Imran (100m sprint), Shariful Islam and Masud Rana (200m sprint), Ismail Hossain and Al Amin (Long Jump), Masud Khan (110m hurdles), Khandokar Kibria and Kamrul Islam (800m sprint), Sajjad Hossain (Javelin Throw), Mahfuzur Rahman (High Jump), Hedayet Hossain (Hammer Throw), Alamgir Hossain (800m run), Sohagi Akter and Susmita Ghosh (100m sprint), Sumi Akter (800m run), Jesmin Akter (100m hurdles) and Sumi, Sohagi, Susmita and Jesmin (4X100m Relay).

## BCL deferred by 3 weeks

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Championship League, the second-tier professional football league, has been deferred by about three weeks and is now scheduled to begin from August 4 as some of the participating clubs want time to prepare.

The decision was taken yesterday during a meeting of the professional football league committee.

"We have deferred the league for a few weeks after some clubs sought preparation time while some others want to play the league after the start of the Bangladesh Premier League," BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag explained.

However, it has also been learnt that the federation has yet to arrange a sponsor for the championship.

The tournament was originally scheduled to be from July 15 despite the tentative start date of the 10-team second-tier professional league being set at June 3 in the four-year calendar, which was disclosed last December.

Feni Soccer Club, Uttar Baridhara Club, Young Men's Club Fakirerpool, Agrani Bank, Police FC, Victoria Sporting Club, Karwan Bazar Progati Sangha, Bashundhara Kings and Nofel Sporting Club will participate in the league.

## Ginter switches to M'gladbach

AFP, Berlin

International defender Matthias Ginter, fresh from helping Germany win the Confederations Cup, has quit Borussia Dortmund to join Borussia Moenchengladbach.

"Matthias Ginter came to us and expressed his desire to leave due to the competition for places in defence. We decided to grant him that wish," Dortmund sporting director Michael Zorc said on the club's website.

It appears the 23-year-old requested the move to be sure of playing enough first team football next season.