

What to Watch

STAR SPORTS 1
Women's World Cup
Semifinal
England v South Africa
Live from 3:30pm

TEN 1HD & TEN 3
Sri Lanka v Zimbabwe
1st Test, Day 5
Live from 10:30am

AFC U-23 C'SHIP Tired booters play Jordan tomorrow

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh U-23 national football team reached the Bethlehem city of Palestine yesterday to participate in the AFC U-23 Championship Qualifiers, which is scheduled from July 11-16.

After training for three days in Qatar and playing a practice match against their away counterparts, the booters embarked a long travel to Bethlehem by road after landing in Amman, the capital of Jordan. Following the taxing journey where they were held up for roughly four hours at the Israeli border, they rested at the team hotel, the Al Jacir Palace, before a scheduled afternoon practice session.

"The team took a long bus journey to Bethlehem through the Allenby checkpoint of Israel," said a BFF statement.

The team manager

Sanyajit Das Rupu added:

"Finally we are here in Palestine. Ibrahim joined the team in Amman. We had a three and half hours hassle in the Israeli border which was unfortunate but after more than 12 hours journey we are here. The boys will train at 3.30pm Palestine time today to adjust themselves with the condition and prepare for match."

Bangladesh will start their campaign against Jordan tomorrow.

Hart set for West Ham

AFP, London

England international defender Joe Hart is set to be unveiled with West Ham on Monday as they look to finalise a loan move from Manchester City, according to media reports.

The 30-year-old had been

told by City boss Pep

Guardiola that he could find

another club, and he appears

set for a season-long loan with the East Londoners after spending last season with Italian side Torino.

Hart, who has 71 England caps, is expected to have the option of making the move permanent, while City will pay some of his wages as part of the deal, according to the reports.

Hart is keen on regular first-team football, which would have been unlikely

City after the Eastlands outfit splashed £35 million on Brazilian keeper Ederson Moraes.

Bayern land in China

AFP, Berlin

Bayern Munich landed in China on Monday for their pre-season tour with the German giants already tipped to win a sixth straight Bundesliga title -- five weeks before the new season starts.

Bayern touched down in Shanghai to start their tour of China and Singapore with the new German league season to start on Friday August 18.

They play Arsenal Wednesday and AC Milan on Saturday, then Chelsea on July 25 and Inter Milan July 27.

As part of their preparations, the German giants have already won their first pre-season friendly, a 2-0 win on Saturday to a pre-season four-team tournament in Mengchenglaobach.

The Bavarians have held an iron grip on the German league title for the last five seasons -- and one of their rivals has already waved the white flag for 2017/18.

"I turned the television on Saturday and thought 'well, that's it then' -- this Bayern team is not going to be stopped. They already have the [league] title in the bag," Martin Kind, president of newly-promoted Hanover 96, told German daily Bild.

Germany forward Thomas Mueller, who captained Bayern in the absence of injured Manu Neuer, scored and set up James' goal in the final, but had a penalty saved.

New signings Corinthen Tolisso and James Rodriguez, on loan from Real Madrid, both shone in making their debuts in Bayern's famous red shirt.

James particularly impressed on the right side of Bayern's attack.

"You could see that he was always looking to combine, he has a superb left foot and is always looking for where his team-mates are," said Mueller.

Bayern's head coach Carlo Ancelotti also heaped praise on James, who he

worked with at Real in 2014/15: "In James we have one more fantastic player."

PATO FINDS HIS MOJO IN CHINA

Alexandre Pato is rediscovering his love for football in China after a turbulent few years saw his career nose dive before he had even reached his prime. The 27-year-old forward hit a cracker from long distance in Tianjin Quanjian's 3-0 weekend win over Shanghai Shenhua, for whom Carlos Tevez now has just two league goals during an injury-disrupted season. In contrast, Brazilian Pato has hit nine goals in 16 Chinese Super League (CSL) matches in his debut campaign -- eight in his last 10 -- and appears to be flourishing under Italian World Cup winner Fabio Cannavaro. "Believe in yourself," Pato tweeted following a win which moved Tianjin up to third, summing up his rejuvenation after an unsettled five years that included a disastrous loan spell at Chelsea.

--AFP



Wimbledon men's and women's singles champions, Switzerland's Roger Federer (L) and Spain's Garbine Muguruza pose with their respective trophies at the Champions Dinner in central London on Sunday.

U-16 girls hold Hwacheon

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh U-16 women's football team played out a 2-2 draw against Hwacheon Information Industry High School Women's FC in the third practice match in South Korea yesterday.

Although the girls in red and green notched up an easy 0-0 win over Yulmyun Middle School Women's FC in the previous match, Hwacheon made them sweat. Thapu broke the deadlock in the 27th minute before Ching Ching Wu doubled the home team's lead in the 63rd.

Trailing 2-0 at this point, Bangladesh stepped up their attack and pulled a goal back in the 73rd minute through winger Sanjida Khatun. Defender Shamsunnisa then struck the equalizer in the 78th minute of the match, where Krishna Rani Sarker did not take part while striker Israt

Israt Swapna played out the last 20 minutes.

"We conceded the lead against the run of play and lost some scoring chances despite creating a lot of opportunities," said Bangladesh assistant coach Mahabubur Rahman Litu over the phone yesterday.

Amongst Monia and Israt Jahan Swapna squandered two separate one-on-one situations respectively while Monica Chamkha rattled the crossbar in the dying moments of the game.

"The Korean girls are ahead of us physically and technically but the girls really fought neck-and-neck with the opponents, who have been together for the last four years," said Litu, adding that Krishna suffers from a knee injury and Swapna is also nursing a slight injury on her thigh.

Bangladesh will now play their fourth and final practice match against Paiti Football Academy on July 19. These practice matches were all part of Bangladesh's preparations for the AFC U-16 Women's Championship in September.

Federer to play till 40

AFP, London



Buoyed by his record-setting eighth Wimbledon title, Roger Federer warned rivals Monday that he could play until he's 40, sparing heading a late-life era of supremacy alongside Rafael Nadal.

Federer eased past injury-hit Marin Cilic to become the oldest Wimbledon men's champion since the Open era on Sunday, breaking the tie for seven All England Club titles he had shared with Pete Sampras since his last triumph in 2012.

It also gave him a 19th Grand Slam title in his 29th final at the majors.

With his 36th birthday just three weeks away Federer believes that he could still be playing the tournament when he's 40.

His appearances on the tour will remain limited.

He hinted he may sit out the Montreal Masters and play only in Cincinnati before an assault on a sixth US Open where he hasn't won since 2008.

As always, it's a decision he'll make with those closest to him, and it's when he took his six-month break in 2016.

"I did ask them the question sincerely, to everybody on my team, if they thought I could win major again," Federer explained.

"Basically the answer was always the same from them: that they thought if you're 100% healthy and you're well-prepared, you're eager to play, then anything's possible."

He immediately shut down his season, missing the Olympics and US Open, to rest a knee injury.

As a consequence, his world ranking slumped to 17 in January, his lowest since 2000.

But the gamble paid off as a rejuvenated Federer won a fifth Australian Open on his return before adding back-to-back Masters at Indian Wells

and Miami.

He shipped the clay court season in the knowledge that a fully-fit Nadal was always likely to dominate the French Open.

Back on grass, Federer won a ninth Halle title before easing to his stunning Wimbledon landmark.

Wimbledon, where he became the first man to win the trophy without dropping a set since Bjorn Borg in 1976, was only his seventh tournament of 2017.

By contrast, the unfortunate Cilic was playing his 15th, so it was hardly surprising that wear and tear contributed to his downfall, albeit in the shape of a humble but debilitating blister.

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