

What to WATCH

SONY SIX
 England v India
 Fourth Test, Day-4
 Live from 4:00pm
STAR SPORTS SELECT 1
 English Premier League
 Cardiff v Arsenal
 Live from 6:30pm
 Burnley v Man United

Live from 9:00pm
US Open
 Men's Singles
 Round-3
 Live from 1:35am (Monday)
STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
 English Premier League
 Watford v Tottenham
 Live from 9:00pm

US Open
 Women's Singles
 Round-3
 Live from 12:15am (Monday)
TEN 2
 La Liga
 Barcelona v Huesca
 Live from 10:30pm



South Korea retained their gold medal in the Asian Games men's football event yesterday with a 2-1 win over Japan in extra time, but even greater than that prize was the exemption from military service that international superstar Son Heung-Min earned. PHOTO: REUTERS

'Best day of my life'

Korea beat Japan 2-1 in final; team gets exemption from military service

AFP, Jakarta



Tottenham Hotspur forward Son Heung-min was left beaming from ear to ear after winning an exemption from almost two years of military service by leading South Korea to Asian Games gold on Saturday.

The defending champions beat Japan 2-1 after extra time in steamy Cibinong, West Java as Lee Seung-woo and Hwang Hee-chan scored the goals that will allow 26-year-old Son to see out his new five-year deal with Spurs.

A late header from Ayase Ueda gave South Korea an almighty fright, but they survived a nervous last few moments to capture a record fifth Asian Games title.

Korean captain Son sprinted to embrace

goalkeeper Jo Hyeon-woo at the final whistle, sobbing tears of joy as they rolled on the turf together.

"This is the best day in my life," Son told AFP, clutching his gold medal. "I'm so proud of my teammates, they fought for 120 minutes. But without the Korean people behind us we couldn't win this tournament. Of course when I see the people support me, I want to give something back and this is the best present for my life."

Failure to win gold could have been disastrous for Son's career as the multi-millionaire footballer faced swapping his tracksuit for a camouflage kit and 21 months of national service, compulsory for South Korean men.

"I'm so grateful to Tottenham because they let

me come here," grinned Son. "Normally that's not an easy decision. I would have felt very sorry if I didn't win the gold medal," he added.

Nearly every able-bodied South Korean male is required to perform military service before the age of 28, although the government rewards Asian Games gold medals and Olympic medals of any colour with an exemption.

Son was selected to play at the 2014 Asian Games but his former club Bayer Leverkusen refused to release him -- and the Koreans scooped gold.

His tears after South Korea's quarterfinal defeat by Honduras at the 2016 Rio Olympics melted hearts, and thousands offered to do double their own military service in an online petition if Son could be pardoned.

Hockey team finish sixth after 7-0 loss

Bangladesh's Games come to an end

ATIQUÉ ANAM from Jakarta



The Bangladesh hockey team ended their Asian Games campaign in sixth position despite a 7-0 defeat against South Korea in the place-deciding match at the Gelora Bung Karno hockey field yesterday.

Gobinathan Krishnamurthy's charges chased their shadows and had little possession in the match, but they would take the satisfaction of finishing sixth for the second time in the history of the competition.

Bangladesh had finished sixth out of seven teams the first time they played in the Asian Games, in 1978, and have since never made it above seventh place. In the last Asian Games they finished eighth.

The men in red and green kept 14th-ranked South Korea at bay till the ninth minute, but once the scoring started, it was one-way traffic.

The Koreans had 19 shots on goal with seven of those ending at the back of the net. Four goals came from open play while two came from penalty corners and one from a penalty stroke.

Bangladesh, on the other hand, had only two shots on goal but they failed to earn a single penalty corner in the entire match.

The Bangladesh coach Krishnamurthy said that the team has a long way to go and the federation needs to do a lot of things to improve the team further for these competitions during his post-match reaction.

"Ranking-wise I'm satisfied as we have finished sixth in the Asian Games, which is a very competitive event given the fact that this is a qualifying platform for the Olympics," Krishnamurthy said.

"However, performance-wise, we could have done better in certain areas. But for that we need long-term planning for the development of the game, including the domestic competitions, more funding, youth programme and structural things," the Malaysian opined.

Bangladesh played six matches in total in

the competition, winning against Oman -- a team they lost against quite a few times in the recent past -- as well as against Thailand and Kazakhstan while losing by big margins against Malaysia, Pakistan and South Korea.

By dint of finishing sixth, they will not need to play in the qualifiers for the next Asian Games and the next Asia Cup.

The hockey defeat, meanwhile, brought an end to Bangladesh's participation in the 2018 Asian Games. The 163-person contingent failed to earn a single medal -- for the first time in 36 years -- and in doing so they became the third-largest contingent, after Sri Lanka and Maldives, to not win a medal from these Games.

INDIA TAKE BRONZE

It could have been a gold-deciding match, instead the India-Pakistan hockey match had turned into a third-place deciding affair as the subcontinent giants were beaten by Malaysia and Japan in the semifinals.

However, an India-Pakistan match, played anywhere and with any context, is a bit of a grudge match with pride at stake. And India, the champions of the last edition, staked that claim with a 2-1 victory over archrivals Pakistan in a keenly contested affair.

India took an early lead in the third minute through a clever finish from Akashdeep Singh, but Pakistan were always in the match. However, Harmanpreet Singh's penalty corner conversion in the 50th minute gave them comfort before Atiq Mohammad scored two minutes later to bring the eight-time champions back into the game. However, the green shirts failed to score from any of their four penalty corners, which proved to be decisive in the final reckoning.

Meanwhile, the tournament's surprise package, Japan, snatched the gold by beating Malaysia in a penalty shootout of a madcap final later in the night.

Malaysia had taken a 4-1 lead inside the second minute of the second quarter but Japan hit back again and again to take the match into tiebreakers.

L'pool, Chelsea stay perfect; City 2 behind

AFP, London



Liverpool and Chelsea maintained their perfect Premier League starts after four games on Saturday as champions Manchester City edged past Newcastle to remain two points behind the early leaders.

A huge error from £65 million (\$84 million) goalkeeper Alisson Becker threatened to halt Liverpool's early season charge, but Jurgen Klopp's men held out for a 2-1 win at the King Power in another demonstration of their new-found defensive solidity to go with the firepower of Sadio Mane, Roberto Firmino and Mohamed Salah.

Chelsea had to wait until 19 minutes from time to break down Bournemouth at Stamford Bridge before the in-form Pedro Rodriguez opened the scoring and Eden Hazard sealed the points in a 2-0 win.

City bounced back from a rare slip-up at Wolves last weekend thanks to goals from England internationals Raheem Sterling and Kyle Walker in a 2-1 success to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Sheikh Mansour's takeover that has transformed the club.

At the other end of the table it was another afternoon to forget for West Ham, who remain the only Premier League side

SELECTED RESULTS		
Leicester City Ghezzal 63	1 - 2	Liverpool Mane 10, Firmino 45
Chelsea Pedro 72, Hazard 85	2 - 0	Bournemouth
Man City Sterling 8, Walker 52	2 - 1	Newcastle Yedlin 30

without a point, as Adama Traore snatched a 1-0 win for Wolves in stoppage time at the London Stadium.

On a rare off day for Salah, who was substituted 20 minutes from time, Mane and Firmino stepped into the breach to give Liverpool a 2-0 half-time lead at Leicester.

But that was a more comfortable cushion than they deserved as for the third straight game the Reds failed to produce their free-flowing best.

Alisson more than played his part in registering clean sheets against West Ham, Crystal Palace and Brighton, but the Brazilian number one was caught trying to dribble past Kelechi Iheanacho and the Nigerian squared for Rachid Ghezzal to set up a grandstand finish.

"It's only positive that he is that good a footballer. But we all have to learn to use it in the right way still," said Klopp of Alisson's propensity to take risks.

Keys locks up last 16 spot

AFP, New York

Madison Keys, vying to return to the US Open final, was back in the last 16 after a 4-6, 6-1, 6-2 victory over Aleksandra Krunic on Saturday.

"I was definitely a little nervous and she came out playing really well and put a lot of pressure on me from the start," said Keys, whose pre-match aim of getting comfortable on Arthur Ashe Stadium "clearly didn't happen."

"I'm happy to be in the next round," said the 23-year-old American who will face either Wimbledon champion Angelique Kerber or Slovakian Dominika Cibulkova for a place in the quarter-finals.

The match was the curtain raiser to five-time champion Roger Federer's third-round duel with Australian Nick Kyrgios.

The winner of the match will face Australian John Millman, who reached the US Open last 16 for the first time with a 6-4, 4-6, 6-1, 6-3 victory over Kazakhstan's Mikhail Kukushkin.



Paris Saint-Germain's Kylian Mbappe scored the third goal during their League 1 away match against Nimes yesterday. PSG won the game 4-2 but Mbappe was sent off in the 90th minute for fighting. PHOTO: REUTERS

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